Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-87-209
Thursday
29 October 1987

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-87-209 *29 October 1987*

CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 October Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi Reports 'Earnest' Mediation With Syria *[Radio Free Lebanon]* 3
'Arafat Discusses Issues at News Conference *[Algiers VOP]* 3

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Messaadia Receives PLO's 'Arafat 28 Oct 5
Portuguese Ambassador Dies of Heart Attack 5

Chad

Lake Chad Basin, Niger Basin Summits Convene 5
CBLC Commissioners Meet 5
Commission Meetings Conclude 5
Heads of State Session Opens 5

Egypt

Mubarak on Support for Kuwait, Other Issues *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 28 Oct]* 5
Finnish Parliamentarians Meet With Mubarak 11
'Abd al-Majid Protests to UN on Kuwait Attack 11
Ethiopian Vice President, Delegation Arrive 12
USSR's Kapitsa Addresses AAPSO Seminar 12
On Midddle East Issues 12
USSR To Help Modernize Iron, Steel Works 13
Agriculture Agreement Signed With Greece 13
Minister Butrus Ghali Visits South Korea *[cross-reference]* 13

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Cable From Tunisian Leader 13
Military Editor Views Egyptian Arms Purchases 13

Mauritania

'Plot' by President's Military Aides 'Foiled' 13
Approximately 20 Arrested *[AFP]* 14
Tunisian Envoy Conveys Message to President *[Tunis]* 14
President Chairs Cabinet Meeting 28 Oct 15

Sudan

Minister Says Situation in Darfur Stable 15
SPLM Denies Garang in Chad Seeking Support *[AFP]* 15
State Council Chairman Receives Iraqi Official 15
Ethiopian Delegation Departs Khartoum 28 Oct 16

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Inter-Arab Affairs

Paper Views U.S. Strike Against Iranian Oil Rig *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Oct]* 17

Bahrain

Iraq's Ramadan, Delegation Arrive in Manama 17
Views Summit, USSR, PRC, Iran *[AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ 29 Oct]* 17

Kuwait

Algeria's Ibrahimi Arrives on 'Brief Visit' 18
Meets Foreign Minister, Departs 18
Paper Praises Egypt's 'Solidarity' Against Iran *[AL-ANBA' 29 Oct]* 18
Iran Warned of 'Repercussions' of Actions *[AL-YAQAZA]* 19
Paper Decries Arms Sales to Iran, Blames Arabs *[AL-RA'Y AL-'AAM 29 Oct]* 19
Economy Said 'Solid' Despite Stock 'Crisis' *[AL-WATAN 29 Oct]* 19

PDRY

Foreign Minister on Arab Summit, Ethiopian Ties *[AL-MAJALLAH 21-27 Oct]* 19
Presidium Session Reviews Plans' Implementation 21

Saudi Arabia

Ship Collision Blamed for Oil Pipeline Fire *[AFP]* 21
Algerian Foreign Minister Reviews Visit, Talks 21
Further on News Conference 21
Paper Comments on Crown Prince's Visit to U.S. *[AL-RIYAD 19 Oct]* 22

United Arab Emirates

FRG Economics Minister Bangemann Begins Talks 23
Views EEC-GCC Relations *[Hamburg DPA]* 23
Blames U.S. for Stock 'Crash' *[Hamburg DPA]* 23

IRAQ

USSR's Vorontsov Arrives on 'Official' Visit 24
Received by 'Aziz 24
'Aziz on Amman Summit, Gulf, USSR Relations *[London AL-HAWADITH 23 Oct]* 24
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations 27
Communique No 2,890 27
Spokesman on Targets of Attack 28
Northern Area Fighting Denied 28
Shelling Kills 6, Wounds 23 28

ISRAEL

Shamir Agrees in Principle to Peace Conference *[DAVAR 28 Oct]* 29
Shamir To Boycott UK During European Tour *[HADASHOT 28 Oct]* 29
Rabin on U.S. Aid; Terms Iran 'Best Friend' 29
Beilin on Rabin's Remarks 29
Syria's Talas on 'Strategic Parity' With Israel 29
Foreign Ministry Seeks Arrangement in Awad Case *[THE JERUSALEM POST 28 Oct]* 30
PRC Experts Attend Bet Dagan Irrigation Seminar *[MA'ARIV 28 Oct]* 30
HADASH Submits No-Confidence Over Gilbo'a Plan *[DAVAR 28 Oct]* 30
'Major Decline' Noted in S. Lebanon Incidents *[MA'ARIV 28 Oct]* 31
'Serious Disturbances' Occur in Bethlehem 31
Editorial Emphasizes Palestinians Seek Peace *[AL-NAHAR 26 Oct]* 31

LEBANON

2 French Gendarmes Killed, 1 Critically Wounded *[VOL]* 33
Witness Urged To Come Forward *[RFL]* 33
Liberation Battalion Fires RPG at Syrian Forces *[RFL]* 33
'Deal' To Release Briton, Frenchman Reported *[Abu Dhabi]* 33
Press Cited on Possible Release of 6 Hostages *[Cairo]* 33
Al-Huss Returns from Damascus, Makes Statement 33
Birri Hints at Possible Run for Presidency *[RFL]* 33
Birri Leaves for Algiers Via Damascus 28 Oct 34
PSP Statement on Domestic Crisis, Gulf War *[VOM]* 34

SYRIA

Al-Asad Receives Tunisia's Hedi Mabrouk *[Tunis]* 35
Al-Asad, Khaddam Confer With Lebanon's Al-Huss 35
Lebanese Speaker al-Husayni Arrives in Damascus *[Beirut]* 35

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Attends Draft Constitution Session 36
Nur Addresses PDPA Scientific Conference 36
Ziray PDPA Conference Speech on Factionalism 36
Keshtmand Briefs Plenum on Conference Results 40
Najibullah Receives Council of Afghan Milat 40
Keshmand Attends Kabul City Party Plenums 41

Bangladesh

Nationalist Party Chief Urges Opposition Unity *[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 24 Oct]* 41
Opposition Protests 'Biased' News Coverage *[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 25 Oct]* 41
Over 300 Political Leaders Arrested 26 Oct *[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 27 Oct]* 42
Delhi Reports Nearly 1,500 'Activists' Arrested 43
Police Fire Kills 1 Protester, Injures 5 *[AFP]* 43

India

Prime Minister Interviewed on Punjab, Bofors 43
Minister Leaves To Meet Sri Lankan President 44
Defense Minister on Modernization of Forces 44
Nine Injured in Tripura; Curfew Continues 44
Newspaper Employees Stage 'Token Strike' 44
Indo-U.S. Vaccine Action Program Questioned *[PATRIOT 19 Oct]* 44

Iran

Withdrawal From Hague Court Considered 45
New Soviet Envoy Says Vorontsov To Visit 45
Commentary Views Silkworm, Stinger Missiles 45
Khamene'i Asks Nation To 'Thwart All Plots' 46
West Europeans in 'Perilous Situation' in Gulf 46
Japanese Oil Firms Urge Caution Over Embargo 46
Musavi Comments on U.S. Trade Restrictions 47
Tehran on Ineffective U.S. Embargo Attempts 48
Velayati Departs for Harare for Talks 48
Turkish State Minister Oksay Continues Visit 49
Confers With Musavi on Oil 49
Discusses Exchanges With Khatami 49
Participation in Anti-U.S. Marches Urged 49
Further Details on Marches 50

Cabinet Discusses Price Measures, U.S. Crash 50
Verdict Reached Against Subversive Groups 51
Official Discusses New Role of Gendarmerie *[KEYHAN 18 Oct]* 51
Kurdish Groups Pledge Support for Tehran 54
Afghans, Pakistanis Ready To Fight U.S. 54
10,000 Iraqi POW's Reportedly Request Asylum 54
Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue 54
IRGC Liberates Heights in Iraq 54
Communique No 3,003 55
18 Killed in Iraqi Air Raid 55
Air Strike Heavily Damages Iraq 55

Pakistan

Strong Protest Lodged Over Afghan Shelling 55
Junejo To Attend SAARC Summit, Visit Malaysia 55
Further Reportage on Iranian Minister's Visit 55
Trade Memorandum Signed 55
Further on Memorandum *[IRNA]* 56
Iravani Notes 'Satisfaction' *[IRNA]* 56
Arms Purchase Agreement Signed With Turkey *[NAWA-E WAQT 18 Oct]* 56

Sri Lanka

Indian Forces Consolidate Position in Jaffna 56
Temple Surrounded 56
Curfew Relaxed *[Delhi]* 57
Kodakamam 'Stronghold' Taken *[Delhi]* 57
LTTE Damage Assessed *[Delhi]* 57
LTTE Harasses Refugees *[AFP]* 58
LTTE Members Now Active in Kilinochchi 58
JVP Gunman Suspected in Official's Death 58
JVP 'Subversive' Shot Dead by Police 58
5 Indians Wounded by Batticaloa Land Mine 58
Suspect Sought for Attack on Parliament 58

29 October Middle East and South Asia Review

LD291356 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Military Activity—Iraq's raids on Iran 28 October targeted the Shiraz oil refinery, a chemical factory near Shiraz, and an oil station, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement to INA. Tehran radio stated that 18 Iranians were killed and 70 injured in the raids on two civilian areas in Fars Province. Iran retaliated with an air strike the following day against targets in the southern Iraqi town of Al-Tib, according to IRNA. Iranian planes inflicted "heavy damage" on Iraqi military concentrations and installations, the agency claimed. An Iraqi spokesman cited by INA stated that 6 Iraqis were killed and 23 wounded in an Iranian artillery bombardment of "residential" areas in Basra 28-29 October.

In another development, Iran's IRGC announced that its forces killed or wounded over 500 Iraqi troops during offensive operations in the Mawat area, north of Al-Sulaymaniyah. However, an Iraqi military spokesman denied the claim, telling INA that there was no battle in the Mawat area, only a minor exchange of fire.

Iran on U.S. Blockade—Referring to the U.S. threat to impose an economic "blockade" on Iran, President 'Ali Khamene'i warned that Iran will give a "proportionate" reply to each U.S. "act of mischief," Tehran radio reported. If Iran finds that no ship is coming to it through the Strait of Hormuz, it will "not allow any ship to enter the Persian Gulf," he said. Meanwhile, the prime ministry's public relations office announced that Iran is considering pulling out of The Hague because of U.S. "violations" of the 1980 Algiers Accord, according to IRNA.

Iraqi Policy—Taha Yasin Ramadan said Iraq's minimum expectation from the upcoming Arab summit is a boycott of the Iranian regime and implementation of the joint Arab defense pact, WAKH announced citing a press report. The first deputy prime minister also mentioned that Iraq will request that Egypt's membership in the Arab League be reconsidered. Ramadan arrived in Bahrain 28 October to deliver a message from President Saddam Husayn to the Bahraini amir, WAKH noted.

Vorontsov Tour—Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov arrived in Baghdad on a tour to include visits to Kuwait and Iran with the aim of facilitating UN efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war, Moscow radio's English service reported. Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with the Soviet envoy and discussed bilateral relations, regional developments, and UN deliberations to implement resolution 598, INA announced.

Saudi Pipeline Fire—A Saudi oil pipeline in the northwestern Gulf was set on fire and damaged after being struck by a supply ship, AFP reported citing oil industry sources. The agency added that there was no indication of sabotage.

Lebanon

Frenchmen Killed—Two French soldiers were killed and another was seriously injured when they were attacked by gunmen in East Beirut 29 October, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The Frenchmen, who were part of the force assigned to guard the French Embassy, were shot by two gunmen while shopping in the Al-Dawrah area.

Hostages—Confirming the release of ROK diplomat To Chae-song, Nabih Birri told a news conference that the Amal Movement gave the Korean protection after his release and will arrange his departure, Beirut radio reported. Birri also confirmed that the kidnappers received a dls 1 million ransom. Speculation about the imminent release of other hostages was reported by Cairo and Abu Dhabi radios.

Damascus Talks—On his return to Beirut, acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss said that he and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held "very similar" views in their "cordial" talks, Beirut radio reported. The talks in Damascus dealt with the Lebanese situation and the possible political implications for Lebanon in the upcoming Arab summit, he noted. Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Amal leader Nabih Birri subsequently arrived in Damascus for talks with Syrian leaders, the radio disclosed.

Southern Clash—Five "terrorists" and one SLA soldier were killed in a clash which broke out during SLA search operations near two southern villages, IDF radio reported.

Syria

Ministers Resign—President al-Asad accepted the resignations of Supply and Internal Trade Minister Muhammad Riyad al-Haj Khalil and Industry Minister 'Ali al-Tarabulsi, Damascus radio noted.

Strategic Parity—Tel Aviv's IDF radio cited Defense Minister Mustafa Talas as claiming that the Syrian Army has achieved strategic parity with Israel. "The Syrian Army is currently ready to withstand any possible provocation," Talas was quoted as saying in the interview with *Jaysh al-Sha'b*.

Israel

West Bank—Security forces arrested 28 people in the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp 26-27 October, *The Jerusalem Post* reported, adding that many of those detained

were suspected PFLP activists. In another development, IDF soldiers fired to disperse student demonstrators in Bethlehem 28 October, wounding one man, IDF radio noted.

Shamir UK Boycott—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has decided to omit Britain from his planned European tour in 1988 as an expression of protest against the British prime minister's support for an international peace conference, *Hadashot* reported.

Mauritania

A coup attempt on 22 October was foiled, the interior minister announced in a communique broadcast by Nouakchott radio. The minister said that among the instigators, who have all been arrested, were the deputy military secretary to the head of state, the presidential guard commander, and the "permanent officer" at the national army headquarters.

Sudan

The minister of cabinet affairs toured the western region of Darfur to assess the security situation following the killing of more than 18 people by "armed gangs," SUNA reported.

Egypt-USSR

The Soviet Consulate in Port Sa'id officially reopened 28 October, TASS noted.

Palestinian Affairs

DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah and a Soviet Foreign Ministry official held talks in Moscow on the Gulf conflict, the Arab summit, and holding a Mideast peace conference, QNA noted.

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi Reports 'Earnest' Mediation With Syria

NC290912 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has asserted his belief that the ongoing mediation between Syria and the PLO is being done in earnest. Referring to the memorandums which the PLO has submitted to Damascus on relations between the two parties and the Middle East crisis, he said it is up to Syria and the PLO to reach agreement on various issues and to agree to hold meetings to discuss them. Qaddumi, who was speaking to the newspaper *Al-Safir*, noted that the PLO's relations with Jordan are normal. He added that the PLO is seeking to clear up all differences with Amman in order to base their relationship on a clear foundation.

'Arafat Discusses Issues at News Conference

LD282328 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Commander in chief, the brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, met with the members of the 21st conference of Francophone journalists in Tunis. Through the questions which the brother leader Abu 'Ammar answered, all developments on the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas were reviewed.

Responding to a question about uniting the detachments of the Palestinian revolution, the brother leader Abu 'Ammar said: All the detachments of the Palestinian revolution were united at the PNC [Palestine National Council] session held in Algeria. Anyone who did not join the PNC is not a Palestinian organization, but is an organization which belongs to the Arab regimes. However, all the Palestinian detachments joined the PLO. This, Brother Abu 'Ammar adfirmed, is reflected in Palestinian cohesion in the camps, in the occupied homeland, and in Lebanon, which met Shultz with demonstrations, strikes, and shop closures and refused all temptations and offers made by Shultz.

As for the Palestinian camps, the masses of our people are paying with their blood and lives the price of expressing this cohesion of destiny and of defending the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Answering another question, brother leader Abu 'Ammar said: During the next few years the Zionist entity will have three options: To continue to occupy the Palestinian bank and Gaza Strip—then the armed struggle will continue and escalate in every way and form against the occupation and against its presence until there is a just peace in the region; the Zionist entity will accept a state in which the number of Palestinians will become equal to the number of Zionists, because today in occupied Palestine the number of Zionists is 2.5 million compared to 2.26 million Palestinians, and within the next 5 years the numbers will become equal; or, third, to reach an agreement through an international conference on peace in the Middle East with regard to the establishment of a Palestinian state on the basis of a just, comprehensive, and permanent peace.

In reply to another question, brother leader Abu 'Ammar pointed out that the Zionist military clique did not only destroy Palestine but also the life and religion of the Jews. He said that if this military clique continues in its obstinacy, racism, and aggression, then for every action there will be a reaction, and we will see that.

Answering a question about his meeting with King Husayn and President al-Asad and the PLO's relations with Jordan and Syria, brother leader Abu 'Ammar stressed that there are no problems with the Jordanian monarch and that contacts have never ceased. He said that he met with the Syrian president at the Islamic summit in Kuwait and that there are mediation attempts between the Syrian and Palestinian sides. Brother Abu 'Ammar added: We have sent Damascus two memorandums about rectifying Syrian-Palestinian relations and we have received one memorandum; Syria has asked for time to reply to the other memorandum.

Responding to a question about the nature of the Palestinian state when it is founded, brother leader Abu 'Ammar said: Our aim is the establishment of a democratic state in which Muslims, Christians, and Jews coexist. This formula was rejected by the Zionists. However, this will remain our motto and we will establish this democratic state on any part of our land which we regain according to the UN resolutions. He added: International legitimacy is indivisible.

Commenting on the resumption of the Zionist infiltration of Africa, brother leader Abu 'Ammar stated: Despite the fact that the Zionist entity benefited from American and IMF pressures on Africa, the Palestinian issue remains an African issue. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar added: This is because I visited 31 African states and the Zionist leaders could not visit more than 5 states. Brother Abu 'Ammar recalled that the number of states recognizing the PLO, whether full diplomatic recognition, actual recognition, or semidiplomatic, is 137 states, while the number of countries recognizing the Zionist entity does not exceed 30. We are going along with the current of history, he said, and they are against it.

When asked about terrorism, brother leader Abu 'Ammar asserted: De Gaulle was a terrorist in the eyes of the Nazis, so were Mitterrand and Cheysson. We should distinguish between terrorism and struggle. The people who face occupation, oppression, or persecution have the right to struggle against it by any means or method

according to the UN Charter issued by the decolonization committee. However, the Zionists and the U.S. Administration try to brand as terrorists the victims of Zionist terrorism. We are the victims of Zionist terrorism.

I am against any terrorist operation. Was not striking the Iraqi nuclear reactor terrorism? The settler gangs, such as Kahane and Sharon, are they not terrorists? We should distinguish between organized terrorism, which is carried out by Israel with the support of the United States against our Palestinian people, and resisting this terrorism.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar was asked whether he feels frustrated and tired after the long years of struggle for an unforeseen end. He said: Definitely not. Failure forces resignation and I have not resigned. I will continue the struggle until the Palestinian flag is raised on the Palestinian territories. I am a man of history and, unfortunately, the Zionist military clique did not learn the objective realities of the conflict from history.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar added: I am the general whom all the generals of the Zionist entity could not defeat with a knockout. I defeated them on points and I am not tired.

Concluding his interview, Brother Abu 'Ammar stressed that the losses suffered by Israel in the 1982 war in Lebanon surpass all the Israeli losses in all previous wars.

Algeria

Messaadia Receives PLO's 'Arafat 28 Oct

LD290954 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Algiers, 29 Oct (APS)—Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau in charge of the Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat, received Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee Chairman, at the party's central headquarters yesterday afternoon. Several issues concerning Palestinian affairs in particular, and the Arab arena in general, were reviewed at the meeting.

Issues relating to the tragedy of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon and the next Arab summit were the focus of this discussion, which comprised an exhaustive analysis of the current Arab situation and the challenges that must be confronted. [passage omitted]

Portuguese Ambassador Dies of Heart Attack

LD290331 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] It has been learned this evening that Mr Rodrigues Benito Garcia, the Portuguese ambassador to Algeria, died in Algiers yesterday after a heart attack. He arrived in Algeria in 1982 and had worked unflaggingly to strengthen Algerian-Portuguese relations.

Chad

Lake Chad Basin, Niger Basin Summits Convene

CBLC Commissioners Meet

AB250604 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Minister of Agriculture Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue opened the 34th session of the CBLC [Lake Chad Basin Commission] conference of commissioners this morning. A large number of national and foreign officials were present. The CBLC, which was established 23 years ago, includes four states: Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, and Chad. [passage omitted]

Commission Meetings Conclude

AB272015 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Excerpt] The meetings of experts, ministers, and commissioners of the CBLC and the ABN [Niger Basin Development Commission] ended yesterday in Ndjamena. The meeting of the heads of state will open tomorrow. In all, nine heads of state—including those from Cameroon, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Niger, Ivory Coast, Mali, Guinea, and Benin—are expected to arrive for the 5th summit of the ABN and the 16th summit of the CBLC. [passage omitted]

Heads of State Session Opens

AB282202 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Excerpt] The conference of the heads of state of the CBLC and the ABN began this afternoon in Ndjamena. President El Hadj Hissein Habre, current chairman of the two subregional institutions, presided over the solemn opening session. The extremely colorful ceremony took place in the large conference hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ibrahim Gbadamasi Babangida, Nigerian president; Hamid Algabid, Niger prime minister; Sadou Hayatou, Cameroonian minister of planning and territorial development; Benin's minister of equipment and public works; and Guinea's minister of foreign affairs also attended the ceremony. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak on Support for Kuwait, Other Issues

JN280900 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Oct 87 pp 14, 15

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Ahmad al-Jarallah, editor in chief of the Kuwaiti paper *Al-Siyasah*, in Cairo; date not given—published in conjunction with *Al-Siyasah*]

[Text] The journalist: Mr President, you are fully aware of the situation in Kuwait. I want to say something about the statement released by the Egyptian Presidency. It was reported by Egyptian television in a special manner—as though Egypt wanted to throw its weight unreservedly into the issue of the aggression on Kuwait. Does that mean that in the face of any Gulf—and particularly Kuwaiti—request, Egypt will be prepared to undertake a military commitment in the form of men or in any other form?

The president: Let me say something to you. Kuwait is an Arab country and a friendly country. We have had strong and close relations with Kuwait ever since its establishment. Even during the period when relations were [officially] severed, ties were never cut off with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, or any other [Arab] country.

When the oil tanker [*Sea Isle City*] was hit and the offshore oil terminal was attacked, I was very disturbed. As soon as I heard of the attack, a statement was issued by the Presidency. We were so moved by the incident that I thought of visiting Kuwait. I asked for Shaykh Jabir [amir of Kuwait] to tell him that I was coming to Kuwait as a show of support. However, in view of the fact that the Arab summit is about to be convened, I did not want to embarrass anyone. I was content with the statement and I mean every word mentioned in it. It was not a statement intended as lipservice. When I issue a statement, I sit down with them [the drafters of the statement] and I spell out the main points to be included in it. The whole draft is studied word by word and is then read out word by word.

The statement issued following the attack on Kuwait was not "a statement by an official spokesman." The statement was issued by the Presidency, for I meant every word I said in it. When you ask me what do you mean by such and such a phrase, I say that I mean what was mentioned in the statement in word and spirit, for Kuwait is not just any country. When the danger threatens Kuwait, it becomes ugly. If the Arab nation cannot appreciate this, well, then the state of Arab fragmentation is very serious—states that cannot find a solution; a silent Arab group that is being exhausted by such circumstances; another group, a minority group, that is not interested in anything except benefiting from the existing situation, although the danger will ultimately threaten all other Arab countries and will not be confined to Kuwait alone.

If we were to view matters strategically, we would conclude that the danger threatens the entire Arab nation. Therefore, I always say: O Arabs, you must sit down and draw up a united strategy. Agree on the objectives, while ways of implementation must be flexible. Arab national security is an important matter. We do not say Arab unity—and some people advocate it—but such ideas are no longer suitable. We are content to say that we want an Arab nation that has ties like the OAU or the EEC states. We want the Arabs to be like other world countries that meet and make decisions. I have urged the Arabs to meet without Egypt and to draw up a firm strategy on how to achieve national security and to define the dangers that threaten the Arab nation: Lebanon, the Gulf war, and the Palestinian question.

The present state of disarray will exacerbate such dangers and will also increase Arab losses. All of this is happening while we are watching and doing nothing. I do not want to continue talking about this, for an Arab summit is about to convene and I do not want my words to be construed that I am proposing something to the summit. My concern for the Arab nation prompts me to say frankly that I fear for our future as Arab states. The means exist in our countries to enable us to forge a unity in views and direction. It is our duty to define our direction in a sound manner. There is no alternative to taking the correct path.

The journalist: Mr President, where do you think the current situation in the Gulf will lead?

The president: It is heading toward the destruction of the Arab nation. I say it frankly and concisely: As long as we are acting in the present manner and as long as there are those who help Iran, try to benefit from it, and run after it, then Iran will continue to hit the Arab nation. Yesterday it was Iraq. Today it is Kuwait. Tomorrow, what? I would like to stress a basic point and warn those who believe that if Iran defeats Iraq it will leave the others alone. Moreover, if Iran's destructive principles succeed in spreading, the situation will be very serious.

The journalist: Mr President, on the basis of your contacts with the big powers, how do you expect them to move in the Gulf in the next stage?

The president: We must realize that the big powers have their own interests. We cannot match the big powers and therefore we cannot enter their arena. We simply have friendships with some of these big powers. We have certain relations with the United States, which helps us in many ways. We also have normal relations with the USSR. However, our main relations are with the Arab nation. If we, as an Arab nation, manage to jointly define our entity and capability, we will have our entity and status in the international community. However, if things continue as they are now, we will neither have standing nor status in the international arena.

The journalist: If Kuwait, relenting under Iranian pressure, requests Egyptian forces, what will be your position?

The president: I cannot talk about such a matter to the press. If I publish or show all my cards, I would be rendering a service to and benefiting hostile forces. I merely say that Kuwait is a friendly—a very friendly—country, an Arab and Muslim country. We are eager to preserve its entity, existence, dignity, and sovereignty. I do not think we can speak about this to the press.

The journalist: Mr President, do you think Iran is in a sufficiently strong and suitable position to open several fronts with all the Gulf states in addition to the Iraqi front?

The president: Yes, this is very possible. Does Iran not have proponents in Lebanon who are backed by some Arab countries? In whose interest? Moreover, there is an important matter. These pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon will in the future turn against other Arab countries which now support them. Did not a number of moves based on Khomeyniite principles take place in other Arab and Islamic countries such as the Mecca incidents and others? Are these not lessons to us? Has the time not come for us to take heed and learn this lesson? Our duty is to not underestimate any development. We must fully assess all the expected dangers and take the necessary precautions. However, as long as we remain divided, the disease will travel from one country to another.

The journalist: Mr President, the Arab summit is about to convene, and this is the first time its convocation has been confirmed.

The president: I am not saying that only it will convene. I had called for an Arab summit at least once every 4 months until the prevailing tension in the region lessens or until we reach solutions to pan-Arab issues and unify our views.

The last summit was held in 1983. Is this logical? There have been serious problems such as the Lebanese issue, the Western Sahara issue, Libyan-Tunisian problems, and other endless problems. There was dire need for one, two, and three Arab summits. It is necessary to face facts by sitting together and talking. We must not say solve problems first and then meet. Why meet then? This meeting will have no value. We must meet to solve our problems as is the case during the African summit conference which convenes every year. Problems arise among the African countries. Most of the problems raised at these conferences are solved through side contacts. This is extremely important. The conference thus ends with resolving about 80 percent of the problems raised.

Moreover, the conference is distinguished by constant traditions, with every country respecting the other. Nobody uses abusive words. The European conferences are another example. We know that interests there are contradictory in most cases. Despite that, they meet once every 3 months without changing the date or the form of the meeting, though there is a contradiction of interests. The French president visits Britain, the British meet with the Germans, and the Germans meet with the Spanish. When something happens, they share almost the same view. This is a characteristic of coordination.

In the Arab region, everybody plans against the other. This raises questions and triggers confusion. Among the countries of the world, we more than any other, need coordination among ourselves. If there is no coordination, other forms of dealing will emerge. They try to terrorize you, although national sovereignty is absolutely not subject to terrorism.

The journalist: Mr President, the Arab citizen feels that Egypt is returning to the Arab countries. Do you have the same feeling?

The president: I do not like to answer or tackle this question. Our relationships with Arab countries are good. I cannot reveal my feelings toward this issue. They will meet, assess circumstances, define positions, calculate the Arab nation's positions, and adopt the resolutions they want.

The journalist: But there are those who say that the president is coming back and perhaps will attend the last sessions of the forthcoming Arab summit?

The president: I read such reports in the Arab and world press sometimes. However, I do not want to lie to you. I do not have any real, specific information.

The journalist: Mr President, countries such as Syria and Libya oppose Egypt's return. It has been said there is a dialogue between Egypt and Syria and that this dialogue is an extension of the meeting between Presidents Mubarak and Al-Asad in Kuwait. Is this true? Is there another dialogue with Libya?

The president: There have been no contacts between me and President Hafiz al-Asad. However, I say that despite what happened in Kuwait, I respect President Hafiz al-Asad. I have known him for a long time and before he became president. Moreover, I have my own interpretation of what happened in Kuwait. I attribute it to certain circumstances and he may have the same interpretation. He is free to have his own opinion. Actually, I did not like what he said in Kuwait because he said it in front of the leaders of 45 Arab and Muslim states. I did not want to complicate matters at the time. I respect the head of the host country, who exerted great efforts to convene the summit.

Therefore, I did not comment on President Hafiz al-Asad's remarks. I did not want to undermine the conference for this reason. Despite this, I still extend my hand to President Hafiz al-Asad. I do not want anything from him or from Syria. The truth of the matter is that I extended and continue to extend my hand to Syria as an Arab country so that we may achieve a reconciliation to serve the Arab nation's interests. He is free not to respond if he chooses. However, as far as I am concerned, I do what I deem to be my duty as an Arab leader to serve the Arab nation.

The journalist: Did any contacts follow events at the ICO summit in Kuwait?

The president: No, nothing happened.

The journalist: It has also been said that Libya is always knocking at Egypt's doors.

The president: Quite frankly, I am at a loss with the colonel. Once he sent a message saying we have an agreement for extraditing criminals and then he complained about me to European countries. At the time, they sent a message saying that the colonel spoke of Egypt massing troops on the border to attack Libya. I replied by saying that I was not massing any troops and did not have any hostile intentions. What is the point of bringing up the issue of the agreement for extraditing criminals? Is he trying to say that those who sought refuge in Egypt are criminals and should be extradited? Are we trying to deceive one another? He knows they are political refugees.

On another occasion Col al-Qadhdhafi told me that he would hand over the detained Egyptians there to the Egyptian opposition. I replied by saying I would also hand over the aircraft to the Libyan opposition. However, there is a difference. The Egyptian opposition is part of the Egyptian regime and I respect them. But would you agree if I hand over your aircraft to the Libyan opposition?

At any rate, I told Mr al-Qadhdhafi: Send me the detained Egyptians in any way you like. There were three of them, one of whom died and two survived. I said: Hand them over to me and take your aircraft along with

those who do not wish to stay in Egypt. I do not force anyone to stay in Egypt. If I wanted more Libyans in Egypt, I would find many who want to come. Quite the contrary, I have turned down many who sought refuge in Egypt. However, when one of them comes here in a plane and asks for asylum, what should I do? I sent back the C-130 plane to the Libyan leadership without any conditions. Otherwise, I can affirm that no other contacts have occurred.

The journalist: Mr President, what is new on the subject of an international conference following George Shultz' visit to Egypt and the region?

The president: We are working hard on this subject. King Husayn is making great efforts and we are making similar efforts with the United States and the European states. Our moves in this direction are well-known, sincere, and earnest.

The journalist: Are there no obstacles?

The president: So far, Yitzhaq Shamir heads the list of those opposing the international conference. But there is no escape from this conference in the end.

The journalist: Will the conference be held before the end of the Reagan administration?

The president: We hope so. But Israel must first agree to the conference and to Palestinian representation. Moreover, this conference is not a new thing. It was held in 1974. It is not a real problem, which is why we say that the Israeli prime minister must change his opinion about it.

The journalist: Mr President, let us go back to the Gulf War. How do you see Iraq's position now versus Iran?

The President: We are not afraid for Iraq. It is steadfast and can face the Iranians. Iraq is in good shape.

The journalist: For how long will the Iranians continue to stubbornly oppose UN resolutions on stopping the war?

The president: They will continue this attitude as long as they find other countries cooperating with them and as long as all nations say something in the United Nations and then some go out and cooperate with them. Otherwise, where did they get the missiles which they used to hit Kuwait?

If certain foreign countries have an excuse for cooperating with Iran, what is the excuse of the Arab countries that cooperate with it? If we cannot stop these Arab countries from behaving in this way, under what logic can we ask foreign countries to desist? We must not expect others to listen to us and respect us. The only reply we hear from them is: Some of your brothers are helping Iran, so do not ask us to refrain from what you yourselves are doing.

The journalist: It is obvious the USSR has taken a certain specific attitude toward this war and also toward Iran. You have met with the delegation of the Soviet Foreign Ministry. Did you not raise this issue?

The president: It was clear from their talk that they do not support the continuation of the war and that the continuation of this war is not in their interest. They emphasized that they oppose escalation in this region.

The journalist: Why did they not back up the Security Council resolution?

The president: You can ask the Soviets. But this is what they said to me. At any rate, what do you mean by "back up"?

The journalist: They refused to apply the sanctions.

The president: Has anyone carried out sanctions against Iran in the real sense of the word? I also wonder about these sanctions which they are talking about. Let me repeat and say: Our duty is to start with ourselves, as Arabs. We are not able to come to terms with ourselves.

The journalist: Mr President, do you think the summit conference will achieve any results in this unsuitable atmosphere?

The president: If it does not achieve any results, it will at least pave the way for another meeting. This is also in the general interest. The leaders must at least meet and talk privately. This is an important step. As long as we stay apart, the subject of the meeting will remain difficult and whenever we say Arab summit we will find those who are against the idea and so the gap will widen. My conviction about these meetings is that they will at least make those who err feel ashamed of their behavior before the large congregation which will oppose them and make them desist.

The journalist: Mr President, why did you decide to return for a second term of office?

The president: To be candid, I was very hesitant about this subject. In fact, I was almost firm about not renewing. This feeling continued with me until the very last minute. When the time came to present my opinion and final position, I had prepared two speeches; in the first one, I was to express my thanks and apologize. But frankly, I was concerned about the country's future. I feared my apology might disturb the people and enable opportunist factions to infiltrate into the ranks of the masses and sabotage the country. That was the reason

which changed my mind while I was listening to what was being said in the People's Assembly. I was overwhelmed by my concern for the people and the country.

The presidency, as I understand it, is a trust not an honor. It is continuous work throughout the day as well as continuous thinking and followup, without leave. My mind is fully occupied throughout the 24 hours of the day. Sometimes I make contacts at 0700 in the morning. I wake up at 0600 to read all world news. I may contact the information or economy minister early in the morning or talk to the prime minister on any subject. Perhaps the only time I forget myself is when I engage in a sport for 1 or 2 hours. So, as you can see, the presidency is not a gain, but a responsibility concerning the problems of an entire country which you are trying to rebuild and develop and where every individual is in a hurry to achieve this reconstruction, development, educational reform, and so forth, not knowing that these things take years to accomplish.

Some people even think that all we have to do is press a button and everything will be finished in 1 year. The task requires a change in customs and traditions. It also requires that we encourage people to work so that every individual will produce and thus contribute to the country's progress. As I said, all this needs a qualitative jump in education as well as great efforts. We now have villages that are productive in many areas. I sometimes visit these villages and the industries in them. It is no secret that some people sometimes ask: Why is the president visiting this village or that industrial establishment?

The essence of such visits is that I tell every establishment: By increasing national production, you are also augmenting your own income. I truly say that progress has been made, which is why I was encouraged to return to the presidency. I felt it incumbent upon me to continue to serve my country and to maintain the upward trend in economic growth and production.

I have noticed, during my tours, that some villages are producing carpets and competing with each other in exhibitions. These exhibitions have turned into a production race which I try to attend every year to encourage everyone who engages in productive work, no matter how small. For no matter how small, such work will grow bigger next year.

When I recently visited the city of Port Said, I toured a factory of ready- made clothes. It is a computerized factory, equipped with the most advanced technology and it works without any loss in material. Had I seen the products of this factory in the market, I would have said they were imported. I was very happy when I visited this factory. When the Egyptian citizen sees the products of this factory on television he will realize how advanced the products of his country are. This is the objective of showing my visits to these factories on television. The objective is to allow the Egyptian citizen to be proud of his country's industrial efforts.

There are several factories now in the 10 Ramadan city, in the 6 October city, and the Al-Sadat city. Half of the desert road has even become agricultural land in Al-Nubayrah and the southern Al-Tahrir Province. There are vast agricultural areas on the desert road. I believe that without all this, the 50 million Egyptians will not achieve self-sufficiency in food and clothing. Taking care of this growing production pattern requires continuity in the quality of the leadership's decision which I felt it was my duty to exercise and entrench, especially since this decision was made upon my request.

The journalist: Mr President, do you think your return to power is a local demand or also an Arab and international demand?

The president: My brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz made a statement in this regard to *Al-Ahram* and I was impressed by it. If the renewal of my term in office was a local demand, then I believe I am doing my duty as an Arab president toward the Arab nation. I am not saying this for local consumption. I mean what I say. I am not a man of slogans but a man of action.

The journalist: After your reelection as a president for a second term, the Egyptian Cabinet was reshuffled, but without any noteworthy changes. This took place despite the fact that some sides expected a dramatic change.

The president: I am the one who assumes the responsibility. As the saying goes: Be resolute and rely on God. Under such circumstances, you should think deeply and assess the situation carefully. You must also examine the interests of the people and the homeland. The decision is made in accordance with these interests. The change of the government does not depend on the first or second term of office. I mean, for example, that the government should not be good on 12 October and bad on 13 October. This is not logical. This does not happen during the second term of office in any nation.

U.S. President Reagan did not change or form a new cabinet at the beginning of his second term of office. Thatcher did the same thing. She did not replace ministers with new faces. In fact, she reappointed those who were relieved of their posts. We take into consideration our national interests and not what is written in or demanded by the newspapers. I listen and read, then finally assess matters because I am the one responsible. I listen to various opinions, and if I act in accordance with all these conflicting opinions, I will not be able to make a decision.

I am the one in charge and I have all the cards. I listen to all opinions and take them into consideration. If the opinion is valuable, I will take it. I do not take incorrect

opinions into consideration or be held responsible for them. This is done knowing that decisions are eventually subject to right and wrong because we are human beings.

The journalist: Mr President, in your latest speech you struck a note of optimism when referring to the Egyptian economy. On what basis is such optimism founded?

The president: We are on the road to economic reform. We have crossed a very difficult stage. Perhaps I deliberately sought to prevent citizens from feeling the harshness of that stage so that they would not feel frustrated. However, I and the government suffered the harshness of that stage. God alone knows the days in which I did not sleep, day or night. No one can imagine the great efforts I made in the first months of 1987 until May. It was an extraordinary effort to save the Egyptian economy. When the tourism sector crashed and the oil sector crashed, the crisis spread to all other sectors and services were liable to be suspended. The result was that production would fall and state revenues would diminish. How could we then pay the salaries of employees working in these factories?

I relied on God and decided to make the maximum possible effort. We succeeded and we overcame an ugly crisis that no one can imagine. I faced an enormous responsibility which was impossible to escape. At the same time, I could not deceive the people. I did not announce the magnitude of the crisis because I did not want to destroy the citizens' morale. I preferred to shoulder the crisis together with the government until we overcame that crisis. Praise be to God, the people have sensed that we have passed the first very dangerous point and that we have embarked on the road of economic reform toward safer ground. I always was optimistic and hopeful, for otherwise it is impossible to work and the doors get closed.

The journalist: Mr President, in many countries such as France and Britain the public sector recently began to turn into a private sector.

The president: If Egypt's circumstances were the same as Britain's, then I would sell the public sector. I do not resort to blind imitation for it is harmful. There are differences among France, Britain, and Egypt in awareness and performance standards and therefore a comparison is unfair.

The journalist: What is to prevent Egypt from turning over the public sector to those who can manage it better? It will then become a whole in which all the Egyptian people are participating.

The president: If I privatize the public sector, it will become captive to attempts to achieve big gains. Prices of goods would be raised for people with limited incomes and that would upset the scales of social justice. We have begun improving the management of the public sector. Eighty percent of the public sector companies are making profits, whereas previously they were all having losses. There are now 300 of 354 companies that are making a profit. The public sector controls the profit margin so that we can offer fixed and reasonable prices to the majority of the people, particularly people with limited incomes.

The journalist: Is it possible to sell some of the tourism sectors to the private sector?

The president: As for tourism, we have things we cannot sell because they have historical value. But we can lease them. We have, for instance, hotels like the Cataracts Hotel and the Palestine Hotel which have a history. We can lease them to the private sector so that they can cover expenses and pay for the renovation of buildings. We are moving in this direction. But is it logical to sell a company like the Al-Mahallah al-Kubra Company? Is there anyone who can pay several billions for such a company? In such a case the government would have the major share, while other partners would have small shares. This would snowball into a definite loss.

Our plan is to modernize the administrations of this type of company—as is the case with the Al-Mahallah al-Kubra Company and the Kafr al-Duwwar factories—to make them profitable and to yield very positive results. The whole process is one of social justice. It has to be taken into consideration to protect the low income people. If we leave matters to the private sector and to profit considerations, commodity prices will be beyond the low income people. The buyer will be the only one able to buy. He does not represent a large group. Consequently, grudges will grow among the people. Our responsibility is to help those with limited incomes as much as we can and to create a certain balance based on preventing public sector companies from making large profits.

The journalist: Mr President, it has been rumored that some Gulf and Arabian Peninsula countries are considering a plan to make the Arab oil countries settle some of Egypt's debts. Do you know anything about this?

The president: I do not want to discuss this subject. Please excuse me for not discussing it at this particular time. If our brothers in these countries are considering backing Egypt, then Egypt is their country.

The journalist: The Egyptian opposition always talks about the emergency law as if it were an abnormal matter in Egypt, although this law has not been implemented in my view.

The president: Implementation of this law is limited to preserving the citizens' security, knowing that the law includes guarantees that are not included in normal laws.

The journalist: There is also talk about amending the Constitution.

The president: I talked about this issue in my speech to the People's Assembly. I will not deviate from what I said because I shoulder the responsibility. I know when to amend the Constitution and when not to. Let whoever wants to amend the Constitution shoulder the responsibility and amend whatever he wants. The picture is clearer to me than to anyone else. I know my way well. I hear different views. With all due respect to whatever is being said, there are priorities. Every individual has to state his opinion within the limits of suitability and responsibility.

The journalist: People are wondering about the reason for not appointing a vice president.

The president: I am free. Does the Constitution force me to appoint a vice president? If I said I would appoint a vice president, people would say: He appointed a vice president to hand over the country to whomever he wants. I actually received a letter to this effect which said: Do not appoint a vice president. Otherwise, you would make the presidency hereditary. If I do not appoint a vice president, people will wonder: When will he appoint a vice president? People want the appointment of a vice president so that they can find something to talk about.

The journalist: Mr President, have your measures concerning the pound's exchange rate achieved any results?

The president: Yes, they achieved results. God be praised. They were part of the economic reform which achieved very great benefits. Those measures met many of our demands. They prevented the drain of billions of pounds of hard currencies in the interest of a handful of individuals at the expense of the rest of the people. Those measures have had positive results. I approved the measures after I submitted a detailed report and a clear picture to the government on the effect of these measures and the gains they would achieve for the low income citizens. My method is always to know the effects of all economic decisions on the people whom I represent, especially the low income people. I always try not to overburden the citizen. My responsibility is to do all I can to improve the living standard of the low income people.

The journalist: What are President Mubarak's priorities for the next 6 years?

The president: I fully outlined these priorities in my speech to the People's Assembly. It took me 1 whole month to prepare that speech, between drafting, amending, checking objectives and figures, and considering possibilities of implementation, to make sure that everything in it was realistic and that the government would be able to carry it out. I have many great ambitions, but they are not personal ones. They are for the people. Thus, I have called for the convocation of a conference on production, similar to the one on the economy, to discuss the obstacles facing production both in the public and private sectors.

Arrangements are now being made to hold this conference in which all key figures will participate to work out a plan of action and certain guidelines that will introduce new methods for increasing production, which is our only way out of the current impasse.

The outside world is now anxious to cooperate in giving Egypt aid because they know we have pursued a sound economic reform policy. Otherwise, no one would have given us aid. Here is England, France, Germany, and Italy supporting us in the IMF.

Finnish Parliamentarians Meet With Mubarak

NC281346 Cairo MENA in English 1207 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, Oct 28 (MENA)—The head of the visiting Finnish parliamentary delegation said following the delegation's meeting today with President Husni Mubarak that his country is greatly concerned with the Mideast conflict and pointed out that delegation of the Finnish Parliament Foreign Relations Committee is touring some countries in the region to become acquainted with their views on the Mideast crisis.

He said today's meeting with President Mubarak was a great opportunity to hear the president's viewpoint on issues of the region, adding that his Parliament is keen on being briefed on the issue of an international peace conference, which is of great importance for realising a just and permanent peace in the Mideast.

The Finnish parliamentarian also said he discussed with President Mubarak the Gulf war, adding that his country believes the conflict could be settled through negotiations and that Finland is ready to contribute to creating a suitable atmosphere to give impetus to the peace efforts.

'Abd al-Majid Protests to UN on Kuwait Attack

NC281949 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1853 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] United Nations, 28 Oct (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has reiterated Egypt's condemnation of the act of aggression against the fraternal state of Kuwait. He said that this attack amounts to a dangerous escalation of the conflict, furthermore, it was directed against a country that is not a party to the conflict and has not committed any act of aggression against another country.

In a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that any action endangering Kuwait's territories and citizens is a blatant violation of the recognized principles of international law. He

stressed Egypt's firm belief that it is necessary to oppose any policy aimed at prolonging the Iraq-Iran war, heightening tension, and expanding the war beyond national and regional borders.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid added in his message that the escalation of this conflict is extremely dangerous and that it is not possible to remain silent in the face of it. He pointed out that the consequences of this conflict could put Arab national security and the Arab nation's existence and future in grave peril. He said Egypt stresses its willingness to shoulder its pan-Arab responsibility toward fraternal Kuwait and urges all Arab countries to assume their responsibilities, unilaterally and collectively, toward this country which has always stood courageously alongside its Arab sisters in all situations and tribulations and has never hesitated to do its pan-Arab duty.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid concluded his message by calling on the entire international community to confront this challenge by repelling this aggression and putting an end to the increasing threats against a peace-loving country. This, he said, would strengthen the bases of cooperation and fraternity among all countries and peoples.

Ethiopian Vice President, Delegation Arrive

NC281358 Cairo MENA in English 1150 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, Oct 28 (MENA)—The Ethiopian Government and people expressed appreciation of the efforts exerted by President Husni Mubarak to settle problems facing Africa, especially President Mubarak's mediation to iron out differences between Sudan and Ethiopia. This was said by Ethiopian Vice President Amanuel Michael, who arrived here today from Khartoum leading a delegation comprising four Ethiopian ministers on an eight-day visit to Egypt. Michael said he carries a message from President Mengistu Haile Mariam to President Mubarak.

He said he will discuss with Egyptian officials the present political developments besides the feasibility of fostering bilateral ties and exchanging expertise in the various spheres, in continuation of the cordial relations between the two countries.

On the outcome of the talks held by the Ethiopian delegation in Sudan, Michael said he has met with Sudanese Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and with leaders of political parties and the speaker of the Sudanese parliament. He said they discussed several political issues and the feasibility of fostering bilateral cooperation and cementing friendly ties between Sudan and Ethiopia. He described his talks in Sudan as very fruitful and serious. He said he has briefed officials there on political developments in Ethiopia within the context of the delegation's tour of some African and Arab countries.

USSR's Kapitsa Addresses AAPSO Seminar

NC281643 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA)—AAPSO and the Egyptian Committee for Solidarity today celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Russian revolution. A seminar was held on this occasion at the Cairo Sheraton Hotel. It was attended by AAPSO Chairman 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sharqawi; Ahmad Hamrush, chairman of the Egyptian Committee for Solidarity; Mikhail Kapitsa, chairman of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa; Mamduh al-Biltaji, chairman of the Public Information Authority; and Dr Muhammad Hasan al-Zayyat, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly.

The seminar was also attended by leaders of the Socialist Labor Party and the Liberal Party, representatives from the NPUG and Al-Wafd Parties, a number of political figures, and members of the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Society in Cairo.

In a speech at the seminar, Mikhail Kapitsa affirmed the Soviet Union's support for Arab countries and for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. He noted that the Soviet people are watching with interest the Egyptian people's sincere efforts to carry out their plans and the great success they have achieved in the educational and cultural fields. He also stressed the Soviet Union's confidence in the ability of the Egyptian people to bring their programs for development and progress to a successful conclusion.

Al-Sharqawi and the representatives of the Socialist Labor, Al-Wafd, NPUG, and Liberal Parties also spoke during the seminar. They stressed their desire to further promote Egyptian-Soviet relations.

On Midddle East Issues

NC281737 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA)—Mikhail Kapitsa, chairman of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa, has praised the rapid progress that is taking place in Egyptian-Soviet Relations.

At a press conference in Cairo today, Kapitsa said that an international conference on peace in the Middle East cannot be convened without the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the regional parties concerned, including the PLO. Kapitsa stressed the need to end the bloodshed between Iraq and Iran, noting that his country is against any foreign intervention in the region. He called for the formation of an international force to end the tension in the Gulf. He

noted in this respect that Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, is currently engaged in shuttle diplomacy in Iraq and Iran to find a solution for the Gulf issue.

In response to a question on Soviet-Israeli relations, Kapitsa said that these relations will not be resumed until a settlement of the Middle East problem is reached.

USSR To Help Modernize Iron, Steel Works

NC281507 Cairo MENA in English 1450 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, Oct 28 (MENA)—The Soviet Union has agreed to contribute to financing and carrying out a plan for renewals, replacements and modernisation of the steel hot rolling factories of the Egyptian iron and steel works. The cost of the plan is estimated at about 20 million pounds. Eng Dia' al-Din Tantawi, chairman of the iron and steel factory, said the plan would raise production from 200,000 tons at present to 500,000 tons during the second five-year plan. The value of the additional production is estimated at about 150,000 dollars at present prices, he said.

A Soviet industrial delegation is due in Cairo next week to study executive steps and to sign the relevant agreement. The Soviet side will extend a commercial loan to Egypt to carry out the plan.

Agriculture Agreement Signed With Greece

NC281650 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA)—Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, and Greek Agriculture Minister Ioannis Pottakis today signed a 5-year agreement on agricultural cooperation between Egypt and Greece. The agreement provides for cooperation in cattle breeding, genetics, greenhouse cultivation, and mechanization and for the encouragement of joint projects. [passage omitted]

Minister Butrus Ghali Visits South Korea

For reportage on the week-long visit by Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, to South Korea, see the South Korea section of the 28 October East Asia *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Cable From Tunisian Leader

LD281727 Tripoli JANA in English 0821 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 28, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—The leader of the revolution received a cable of thanks and gratitude from President "Habib Bourguiba" of the Tunisian Republic in reply to a cable the leader of the revolution had sent on the occasion of the anniversary of evicting the French colonialists from "Bizerte". It reads as follows:

"It gives me pleasure to thank you on your gentle greeting on the occasion of the Tunisian people's celebrations of the eviction anniversary".

I besiege God to realise to the brotherly Libyan people more progress and prosperity and to guide all our steps towards goodwill and mutual interest.

Military Editor Views Egyptian Arms Purchases

LD282243 Tripoli JANA in English 1804 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 28, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—"'Ala' al-Din Barakat" the commander of the Egyptian Air Forces announced that the U.S. Administration has agreed upon providing Egypt with the most recent version of Sidewinder missiles and there exists an agreement with the U.S. to provide Egypt with Boeing-707 tanker aircraft to be used for mid-air refuelling of fighters.

JANA's military affairs editor commented by saying:

"We are puzzled, why does the Egyptian regime pile such arsenal of weapon and publicise it or even advertise them while it repeatedly declared that there was going to be no more wars with the enemy at a time he chained Egypt with an accord it had claimed it is a peace accord and that the Egyptian people should forget war and fighting?"

He added: "If the Egyptian regime has changed its mind and has started to prepare for war and fight the enemy, then this is something which makes us happy and it's a good omen. But if it turns out to be a U.S. plan to chain Egypt with debts to paralyze its ability to move, then it is a regrettable sad thing that must be halted and not to be pursued further".

The editor concluded by saying: "The Arab people in Egypt and its revolutionary forces are committed to stop such grumbling, to tackle this set-back and bring Egypt back as it used to be—a vanguard fortress facing the U.S. and Zionism and a strong support for the Arab nation and Third World nations".

Mauritania

'Plot' by President's Military Aides 'Foiled'

AB282003 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1941 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Colonel Djibril Ould Abdellahi, minister of interior, posts, and telecommunications, acting information minister, and spokesman of the government, made a

statement to the national press this afternoon in which he revealed that a plot in our country was foiled on Thursday, 22 October. Listen to that statement:

[Begin Abdellahi recording] On 22 October 1987 a plot was foiled. However, I want to emphasize the amount of confidence that was enjoyed by the instigators of the plot for it should be known that among them were the deputy military secretary to the head of state, the commander of the Presidential Guard Squadron, and the permanent officer at the National Army Headquarters. I also want to stress the gravity of the mutiny which it [the plot] would have caused within the Armed Forces and the lives of peaceful citizens it would have cost because of the adventurous, thoughtless, and irresponsible character of the men involved and because of their intentions.

More than an attempt to overthrow the government, this plot was a crime against the entire national collective body. It was contrary to the nation's aspirations and would inevitably have cost it very dearly, even the loss of human life, if it had not been foiled before it was carried out. Now, the authors have all been arrested. Order, tranquility, and the security of the citizens will be ensured, at whatever price, in conformity with the commitments made by the CMSN in the aftermath of 12 October 1984. I thank you. [end recording]

Approximately 20 Arrested

AB281905 Paris AFP in French 1844 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Nouakchott, 28 Oct (AFP)—In Nouakchott this evening an official source announced that a plot aimed at toppling the Mauritanian Government, and which implicates military aides close to the head of state, was foiled last week. According to a communique by the Ministry of Interior, this "plot" was thwarted on Thursday, 22 October.

The communique listed among the instigators three officers close to Mauritanian President Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya. They are the deputy military secretary to the head of state, the head of the Presidential Guard Squadron, and the permanent officer at the National Army Headquarters. Details were not officially given on the number of arrests made or the ethnic origins of the instigators.

The communique stressed "the gravity of a mutiny by the Armed Forces which would have been caused by (this plot)," as well as the "adventurous, thoughtless, and irresponsible character of the men involved and their intentions." This "attempt to overthrow the government" is "a crime against the entire national collective body," a crime which "would have been costly in terms of human lives if it had not been foiled before its execution," the communique stated.

About 20 military and top civilian officials within the black African community have been arrested following discovery of the plot, according to reliable sources in Dakar. [Words indistinct] the same source, the land border between Mauritania and Senegal has been closed since 26 October on the initiative of the Senegalese authorities. They feared the spread of yellow fever to their country after the outbreak of an epidemic in southern Mauritania. The Dakar source adds that following this measure, the Mauritanian authorities also closed their land border, which is where a large number of soldiers have been stationed.

Last year Mauritania experienced serious rioting in the black African community. These riots (burning official cars, ransacking government and private buildings in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou) led to the arrest of several leaders and militants of black clandestine organizations. They were given sentences ranging from 5 years to 6 months for "threatening national unity."

The Mauritania head of state, Col Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, in an interview with AFP, described as "very surprising" accusations of apartheid [words indistinct] governments of black African countries.

Tunisian Envoy Conveys Message to President

LD282032 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Mr Taieb Sahbani, minister of state for foreign affairs and special envoy of His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba, met today with Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of the Mauritanian state.

Taieb Sahbani handed to the Mauritanian president a special message from the supreme combatant dealing with Tunisian-Mauritanian cooperation and the current situation in the Arab Maghreb region.

His excellency the president's envoy conveyed to Col Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya on this occasion feelings of great respect and fraternal consideration from his brother and friend His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba. These are feelings which prove the depth of friendship between the presidents of the two countries and between the Tunisian and Mauritanian peoples.

The Mauritanian president asked the envoy of the supreme combatant to reiterate to his excellency feelings of gratitude from the Mauritanian people and government for the historical and decisive support given to his country.

President Chairs Cabinet Meeting 28 Oct

AB282100 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Excerpts] The Cabinet met today under the chairmanship of Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state. [passage omitted] The CMSN chairman briefed the Cabinet on the audience he granted to Taieb Sahbani, Tunisian minister of state for foreign affairs and special emissary from [words indistinct] to President Bourguiba. The message concerns the strengthening of bilateral cooperation, building the Maghreb world, preparations for the forthcoming Arab summit in Amman, and the situation in the Middle East.

The minister of foreign affairs and cooperation presented a report on the Arab, African, and international situation. The minister of interior, posts, and telecommunications briefed the Cabinet on the internal situation. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Minister Says Situation in Darfur Stable

JN281812 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum 28 Oct (SUNA)—Minister of Cabinet Affairs Salah 'Abd al-Salam al-Khalafah has confirmed the stability of the security situation in Darfur Region western Sudan and said the Sudanese Armed Forces and police are working together in complete cooperation and the security situation is under full control.

The minister who returned here yesterday from a short tour to the region [words indistinct] a ministerial delegation to inspect the security situation there following the killing of more than 18 people by unidentified gunmen recently in various parts of the region and said state minister for defence affairs and the police chief are now touring the region to discuss the security situations there and take measures to restore it.

Press reports reached here today from Al-Fashir, capital of the region, said the state minister for defence affairs police chief and the governor of the region have been acquainted with the security situation in Nyala town, south of the region. The delegation will tour other towns and village affected by the attacks of armed gangs.

On the other hand the governor of the region Dr 'Abd al-Nabi 'Ali Ahmad has issued a statement on the recent incidents occurred in Al-Fashir town the capital of the region, in which one student was shot dead by policemen and two others were injured, and local leaders of the National Islamic Front (NIF) were arrested.

The statement said, the (NIF) is to be taken responsible for the incidents in Al-Fashir town, the statement added that (NIF) has requested the authorities there to allow them organizing a procession on Sunday Oct. 25, and they were permitted to do so. The statement pointed out that because of the arrival of the ministerial delegation to the town on Saturday the authorities requested from (NIF) to postpone the procession to another time but the (NIF) refused and instigated students to march demonstrations to the building of the regional government on the same day.

The statement said the (NIF) staged its procession on Sunday and the demonstrators destroyed buildings and threw stones at policemen and armed forces who in response shot and killed some students. The statement called on all the people in the region to undertake their duty so as to restore stablity in the region.

SPLM Denies Garang in Chad Seeking Support

AB282110 Paris AFP in French 1545 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Addis Ababa, 28 Oct (AFP)—The SPLM today denied a report published in Khartoum yesterday that its leader, Colonel John Garang, went to Chad to seek the support of [words indistinct]. The Khartoum daily *Al-Sudani*, quoting "well-informed sources", published a report yesterday giving an account of the excellent reception accorded Col Garang by Chadian President Hissein Habre last week. The daily reported that the purpose of Col Garang's visit was to get the Ndjamena government to support the SPLM's expansion of military operations along the border with Chad.

Col Martin Manyiel, a SPLM leader, stated that the paper's report was false. "Col Garang has not left the bush since his return to southern Sudan from his trips last month to Uganda and Kenya," the officer added.

State Council Chairman Receives Iraqi Official

EA282128 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Mr Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the State Council, received at his office in the Republican Palace this afternoon Mr Hasan 'Ali, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, who arrived in Khartoum this morning on a short visit to Sudan. Mr Hasan 'Ali told our correspondent after the meeting that he handed a letter to Mr Ahmad al-Mirghani from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn concerning an exchange of views and coordination regarding the extraordinary Arab summit meeting to be held in Jordan in November. It [the letter] also reviewed relations between the two countries and ways to strengthen efforts to support joint Arab action confronting external challenges.

Answering a question by our correspondent about Iraq's response to Iran's rejection of the UN Security Council's resolution calling for a cease-fire, the member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council said: The resolution of the UN Security Council is a

rational one and constitutes a principal basis for achieving peace between the two countries. He added that Iraq would adopt a clear and frank stance on implementing the articles of the resolution, that it would defend Iraq and its sacred things, confront Iran's military aspirations, and destroy its economic pillars until Iran surrenders.

The member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council arrived at Khartoum airport at 1000 this morning. He was received by Dr Pacifico Lado Lolik, member of the State Council, and members of the Iraqi Embassy in Khartoum.

Ethiopian Delegation Departs Khartoum 28 Oct

EA282059 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Mr Amanuel Amde Michael, deputy senior minister in Ethiopia, and the delegation accompanying him left Khartoum this morning after a 3-day visit. The delegation spoke with state officials and met members of the Ethiopian community in Khartoum during their visit. The delegation explained its purpose in Sudan at a news conference held at the end of their visit. The delegation was seen off at Khartoum airport by State Council member Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din and the staff of the Ethiopian Embassy in Khartoum.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Paper Views U.S. Strike Against Iranian Oil Rig

PM291129 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Oct 87 p 9

[Editorial: "The U.S. Strike"]

[Text] The limited U.S. strike against Iran's "Rostam" oil rig coincided with general international fear in the financial markets. Losses there have now reached billions of dollars following the record collapse of share prices and the continuing decline of the dollar. This coincidence has caused reports of the two events to follow in close succession and to vie with one another for attention.

There is no doubt that news of the limited strike was sensational and important. However, it is regrettable that matters have reached a point in which a small state—by world standards—like Iran defies a large state such as the United States—as well as international law and regulations—and that a state like the United States has been forced to strike Iranian installations. This strike is regarded as extremely serious by any standard. It confirms the United States' determination to twist Iran's arm somewhat gently. It also evinces an awareness of conditions and consequences that decisionmakers in Washington and Tehran continue to consider.

Nobody wanted matters to proceed this far, but the voice of reason is still inaudible in the Iranian capital. Contempt for international opinion still predominates Iran's logic in dealing with international matters. No one, especially those working for the region's peace and stability, its coexistence, security, and the furtherance of brotherhood between its people, wanted everyone to abandon internal construction, the development of people's resources and potential, and the reconstruction of countries. No one wanted to bring about such a level of destruction and intervention by the great powers. These states have hoped for many decades that such an opportunity would allow them to come back to the region and return it to a further state of backwardness and subservience. This would not have happened had the voice of reason prevailed in Iran and the desire for regional security and well-being been uppermost in decisionmakers' minds. However, this is how matters have developed, and the United States has carried out its limited strike. This strike was like a trial run to explore reactions, as a forerunner of bigger strikes. It also sought to learn whether Iran's bark is worse than its bite, which many observers following Iranian communiques and propaganda attacks believe to be the case. They think that Iran's reaction will manifest itself in a number of ways and that U.S. interests may not be its direct target. This is because Iran wishes to maintain the slender link it had and still has with Washington. These observers believe that Iran also wishes to avoid provoking U.S. public opinion, which now backs the policy of this air strike more than ever. This is a position which, though unwelcome to Iran, is welcomed by the U.S. Administration. This administration formerly had been impeded and encumbered by domestic political considerations and the growing opposition to deeper involvement in the Gulf.

We think Iran knows that local forces in the region will not act any less harshly than did the United States should Tehran attempt military escalation and the expansion of this conflict. This is what it has been doing and continues to seek to do by various methods.

Consequently, the U.S. strike, according to observers, is the beginning and not the end described by U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger.

We must wait and see what the future holds.

Bahrain

Iraq's Ramadan, Delegation Arrive in Manama

JN281241 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Manama, 28 Oct (WAKH)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister, arrived in Manama today on a visit to Bahrain. He will deliver a message to the Bahraini amir, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Ramadan was received at the airport by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister; Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, minister of foreign affairs; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister; Shaykh 'Ali ibn Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, assistant Interior Ministry under secretary for immigration and passport affairs; Taha Mahmud al-Qaysi, Iraq's ambassador to Manama; and 'Abd al-Rahman al-Fadil, Bahrain's ambassador to Baghdad.

Taha Yasin Ramadan is accompanied by a delegation that includes Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, Foreign Ministry under secretary; Fu'ad al-Rawi, chief of protocol; 'Ala' Ibrahim, director general of the first deputy prime minister's office; and Tahir al-Mahdi, press secretary.

It should be noted that the Iraqi RCC member visited Saudi Arabia and Kuwait 2 days ago on a similar tour and was accompanied by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Views Summit, USSR, PRC, Iran

JN290731 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Manama, 29 Oct (WAKH)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has stated that Iraq will specifically demand at the upcoming Arab summit that a joint Arab defense pact be implemented.

In statements published today by the Bahraini newspaper *Akhbar al-Khalij*, Ramadan noted that the emergency Arab summit is supposed to discuss the Gulf war and its effects on regional security. He also stated that Iraq will not oppose the other issues being considered, but that it will request a reconsideration of Egypt's relations with the Arab League. When asked what Iraq hopes the summit will resolve, Ramadan replied: We believe that at a minimum, a boycott of the Iranian regime and implementing a joint Arab defense pact in a practical and serious manner are necessary.

When asked about the fact that large Iranian attacks have not recently occurred on the battlefront, Ramadan stated that the lack of these assaults does not mean Iran has altered its stand on continuing the war. He explained that information has been obtained about the presence of Iranian concentrations and that Iran is preparing to launch a new offensive. Questioned about the USSR's hesitation to impose economic sanctions against Iran, he replied: We were not satisfied with this stand and we expressed this dissatisfaction to the Soviets as friends. We explained our rejection of the Soviet proposals, including the USSR foreign minister's recent proposal at the United Nations.

In discussing reports that China supplies Iran with arms, the Iraqi first deputy prime minister noted: Several contacts have been held, including those by the Arab seven-member committee. China's denial on this issue is false. He expressed regret over China's stand which, he said, does not conform with its permament membership on the UN Security Council.

Kuwait

Algeria's Ibrahimi Arrives on 'Brief Visit'

LD281748 Kuwait KUNA in English 1037 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 28 (KUNA)—Algerian Foreign Minister Dr. Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi arrived here Wednesday on a brief visit for talks with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

The talks will focus on latest Arab developments and the situation in the Gulf region in particular in addition to preparations for the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled for Nov. 8 in Amman.

Shaykh Sabah led the reception party accompanied by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Algerian Ambassador to Kuwait al-Hisnawi Khalidi and a number of senior ministry officials.

Ibrahimi's visit to Kuwait falls in line with an Arab tour that took him so far to Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Meets Foreign Minister, Departs

LD281749 Kuwait KUNA in English 1252 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 28 (KUNA)—Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi left here Wednesday following a short visit to Kuwait during which he had talks with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad on the agenda of the emergency Arab summit, slated in Amman Nov. 8.

The Kuwaiti-Algerian talks was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and a number of officials.

In a statement to KUNA Ibrahimi said that his visit to Kuwait is within the framework of an Arab tour that has taken him to Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

He added the visit comes within the framework of consultations with the Kuwaiti officials on the agenda of the emergency Arab summit noting that his talks also tackled the Iraq-Iran war and its impact on the security and stability of the Gulf countries.

Ibrahimi said that the talks touched on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the importance of reaching a unified Arab stand toward the international peace conference on the Middle East.

Paper Praises Egypt's 'Solidarity' Against Iran

LD291146 Kuwait KUNA in English 0809 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 29 (KUNA)—A leading Kuwaiti newspaper commented Thursday that Egypt, under President Husni Mubarak, has unequivocally demonstrated its whole-hearted solidarity with Kuwait against Iranian threats.

"Despite Arab abuse, Egypt remained faithful and loyal to Arab causes in word and deed," the daily *Al-Anba'* said in a front-page editorial.

In a Kuwaiti newspaper interview yesterday, Mubarak disclosed he intended to fly to Kuwait last week to show support against a string of Iranian missile attacks on tankers in Kuwaiti territorial waters and an oil terminal, but had backed away for fear of embarrassing the Kuwaiti Government in the absence of diplomatic links.

The paper noted that if Mubarak had come here, he would have been most welcome as a first class Arab statesman deserving respect and gratitude for his generous support to Kuwait.

"Egypt is not any other country in modern Arab history, nor is its people or leadership," *Al-Anba'* stressed.

"President Mubarak," the paper concluded, "we would like to thank you for showing a strong resolve to take part in confronting and bridling the satanic misadventures of Iran."

Iran Warned of 'Repercussions' of Actions

LD281753 Kuwait KUNA in English 0858 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 28 (KUNA)—A local weekly magazine warned Iran against the repercussions of its repeated aggressions on Kuwait and emphasized that the Kuwaitis will not bow for blackmail and intimidation.

"*Al-Yaqaza*" said in an editorial of its latest issue that Kuwait is aware of the dimensions of the destructive plan of the Iranian regime, but said that Kuwait knows how to deal with the aggression and how to foil it.

The publication did not rule out the possibility that residential areas or schools would be the next targets of the Iranian attacks, as they did in Baghdad and Basra.

The magazine warned against the grave consequences of the Iranian escalation on the Arab, Islamic and international levels and did not rule out that the Gulf war become the spark that ignites a new world war.

Paper Decries Arms Sales to Iran, Blames Arabs

LD291004 Kuwait KUNA in English 0805 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 29 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti daily newspaper Thursday editorially commented on arms sales to Iran by Koreans, Cubans, Chinese and others, and put the blame on the Arabs for allowing such contempt to Arab causes.

"*Al-Ra'y al-'Aam*" said China and the Soviet Union are giving the Arabs rhetorics about support to their struggle against Israel and imperialism, while at the same time behave as two imperialist countries and supply Iran with arms.

For China and the Soviet Union, Iran is a rich customer and the Iranian market is providing a unique chance for them to increase their exports to Tehran, the paper said.

The newspaper expressed fears that "the scale of the political maneuver would expand, and the danger would escalate with the eruption of the interests war between China and the Soviet Union."

This interest war would be "at the expense of the Arab Gulf states and in interest of Iran and the Koreans...in addition to the Cubans and Nicaraguans who were encouraged by the (arms) deals".

The paper concluded by expressing regret because the Arab arena has become a place for competition on who will kill and who will exhaust the Arab capabilities, while we (the Arabs) have no role in stopping such nonsense or facing those who make such practices."

Economy Said 'Solid' Despite Stock 'Crisis'

LD291104 Kuwait KUNA in English 0922 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 29 (KUNA)—Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi affirmed Thursday that the Kuwaiti national economy is solid and safe in general in the light of the big collapse in international stock markets.

The minister told daily *Al-Watan* newspaper that even if there is any impact on the economy of Kuwait, particularly on foreign investments "we hope that it will be temporary because our investments are based on the revenues of those investments and not on their market value."

He further said that Kuwait has followed a long-term investment policy and that was why "our revenues from those investments have not been directly affected."

On whether there are precautionary measures to protect the Kuwaiti course from the dangerous developments resulting from the international stocks crisis, the minister emphasized that the Kuwaiti Government "is keen on finding the instruments for activating the stock market to consolidate its stability."

Answering a question on whether the government is considering a privatisation program for government establishments, Al-Kharafi said any policy dealing with this program will be based on the government keenness on the continuation of the stability of the market.

He added that there will be a full coordination between the investment authority and the stock market so as to make sure the program be known for all before being implemented and that there be no adverse effects on the stability of the market and the people's confidence in it.

PDRY

Foreign Minister on Arab Summit, Ethiopian Ties

PM290955 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 21-27 Oct 87 pp 26-27

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali by 'Abd al-Bari 'Atwan in London; date not given]

[Excerpt] ['Atwan] The emergency Arab summit will soon take place. It will also be preceded by a meeting of Arab foreign ministers who will make preparations for the summit. The most important decision made at this summit is expected to concern punitive measures against

Iran for its noncompliance with the Security Council's cease-fire resolution. What position will you take at this summit, and will you agree to punitive measures?

[Al-Dali] I do not think that this summit is being held to adopt a particular decision or that this decision has been agreed upon prior to the summit. In my opinion, the Arab summit will be held so that Arab kings and heads of state can review the Gulf war and other issues, and then take practical steps to end the war. It is premature to discuss the nature of these steps, for this matter is best left to Arab leaders.

['Atwan] Many Arab observers believe that Aden's position towards the Iraq-Iran war is unclear. Some say you are taking a neutral stand at a time when you should adopt a position closer to Iraq. How would you respond to this?

[Al-Dali] I believe that our policy on the war is one of the most unequivocal Arab stands. We have publicly declared it at every stage of the war, from the start of this conflict to the present stage that warns of great peril. We have opposed this war from the start. We were, and still are, opposed to forcibly occupying another nation's territory. We oppose using force to settle any dispute between two countries. We did, and still do, continually call for an end to the war and for immediate political dialogue to settle outstanding problems peacefully. The PDRY early on warned of the likelihood of outside intervention if this war continued and expanded. The consequences of this intervention will not be in the interests of the region. This is our position and I believe it is clear. To say that it is not is incorrect.

['Atwan] You mentioned that you oppose occupying other nations' territory, yet Iran presently occupies Al-Faw Island, which is Arab and Iraqi. What have you done to persuade Tehran to withdraw from this area?

[Al-Dali] We expressed our position by rejecting this occupation at the time. We made our position clear to the Iranian officials that we contacted. We also frankly expressed the importance of ending the war through peaceful dialogue, urged Iran's withdrawal, and supported Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for a cease-fire.

['Atwan] What would you do if the Arab states attending the emergency summit decided to sever relations with Iran due to its noncompliance with calls for peace?

[Al-Dali] When this happens, we will discuss it. I do not favor anticipating issues or answering hypothetical questions.

['Atwan] No Arab head of state or leader has visited Aden since the events of January 1986. Is there any explanation for this?

[Al-Dali] There is no negative explanation for this. We are expecting many Arab leaders to visit Aden in the near future. Some Arab leaders have been too busy in recent months to accept invitations, but they will be accepted in the coming months.

['Atwan] It has been noted that your party's Central Committee chairman, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, recently visited Addis Ababa. Does this mean that disputes between the PDRY and Ethiopia have been completely resolved?

[Al-Dali] There originally was no conflict between the PDRY and Ethiopia. However, a misunderstanding arose between the Ethiopian brothers at the beginning of the January events, which was the result of imprecise information given to them. Matters have now been completely cleared up, and Ethiopia's officials have realized the truth of what happened: that 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his clique were the ones who began the bloody events. Relations between the two countries have now returned to normal.

['Atwan] However, three of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's men are still in Ethiopia's Embassy in Aden. Don't you think that this strains relations between the two countries?

[Al-Dali] These three individuals are wanted by the law. We expect the Ethiopian Government to agree to hand them over so they can appear before the law. This is because their names were mentioned by those accused in the January events. Illegal activities have also been attributed to them. These men should thus be brought to justice. We expect the Ethiopian brothers to appreciate this fact.

['Atwan] What about the presence of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad in Ethiopia? Is this not considered an obstacle to completely normalizing relations?

[Al-Dali] First of all, we have not asked Ethiopia to expel 'Ali Nasir Muhammad from its territory. Second, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, according to our information, does not travel to Ethiopia or visit it.

['Atwan] Has dialogue between yourselves and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad been closed?

[Al-Dali] The problem of the Arab press today is that when it views the PDRY, it only refers to the January events, which we have begun to forget and whose tragedies we are overcoming. I would like to state that we are now looking to the future very optimistically, as we look to develop and build our country on modern foundations. [passage omitted]

Presidium Session Reviews Plans' Implementation

EA290000 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] The Supreme People's Council Presidium held its 13th ordinary session this morning. The meeting was chaired by Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, Political Bureau member and chairman of the council's Presidium.

Participants in the session examined a number of reports, memoranda, decrees, and issues. Chief among these were: an assessment of the implementation results from the fourth Supreme People's Council session; orientations and plans of the Council's standing committees for 1988; a 6-month report on the implementation of the Standing Committee's plans for the first half of 1987; and a report on the implementation of decisions taken by the Presidium and Supreme People's Council for 1986 on the judiciary, the public prosecution, and the legal profession's organization.

The Presidium additionally examined a memorandum noting the membership of local People's Councils in the Sayun and Radfan Provinces and specifying days for holding elections there; a memorandum on bestowing decorations and awards; citizenship issues; an agreement on oil prospecting in East Shabwah with the French company TOTAL; and a number of other issues.

The Presidium discussed these issues and made the necessary decisions.

Saudi Arabia

Ship Collision Blamed for Oil Pipeline Fire

NC291013 Paris AFP in English 1003 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Manama, Oct 29 (AFP)—A Saudi pipeline in the northwestern Gulf was set ablaze and damaged Wednesday after being struck by a supply ship, oil industry sources said Thursday.

They said there were no indications that sabotage was behind the incident, which damaged the 40-meter [as received] (25-mile) pipeline linking the offshore oilfield of Al-Saffaniyah to the mainland.

The fire raged for several hours before being brought under control, they said, adding that there were no casualties.

Al-Saffaniyah is Saudi Arabia's largest oilfield.

Algerian Foreign Minister Reviews Visit, Talks

LD281752 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] His excellency the Algerian foreign minister, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, held a news conference today at the conclusion of his official several-day visit to the Kingdom. The Algerian minister reviewed his talks and meetings with high-ranking officials.

In a statement opening the news conference, the Algerian minister expressed his pleasure at visiting the Kingdom. He noted: This visit has enabled me to deliver a message from His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid to his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques. He added: We in Algeria attribute a special importance to this visit for two reasons: We consider it the crowning of a period of noticeable improvement in Algerian-Saudi relations, as exemplified by coordination in the oil market, the deepening of political dialogue, and increased cooperation in the cultural and economic fields.

The second reason is that it precedes the emergency Arab summit.

His excellency the Algerian minister expressed the hope that the leaders of the Arab nation will face up to its challenges, especially the Israeli-Arab conflict, and will emerge with a clear unified view concerning the international Middle East peace conference and the Iraq-Iran war. He stated: We deplore the war's eruption, its continuation, its expansion, and its threat to the security and stability of the region's fraternal states. The Algerian foreign minister indicated that he had discussed these issues with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; and with His Excellency Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning.

Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi also praised the Kingdom's comprehensive achievements, particularly those affecting the development of the Saudi citizen. He expressed the Algerian people's desire to wish the Saudi people continued peace of mind, development, and prosperity. The minister additionally pointed out that he had noticed the development of Saudi society through his visit to King Sa'ud University and the King 'Abd al-'Aziz Military Academy.

At his statement's conclusion, Minister Ibrahimi expressed his gratitude to His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal for the hospitality and welcome he received.

Further on News Conference

LD281817 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1245 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 28 Oct (SPA)—Algerian Foreign Minister Taleb Ibrahimi held a news conference today to review his talks and meetings with senior Saudi officials during his visit to the Kingdom. This visit lasted for several days. [passage omitted]

In his replies to journalists, Ibrahimi praised the efforts being exerted by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosqes, to achieve reconciliation between the Arab Maghreb countries. He added that the nature of these efforts will, with God's help, provide favorable conditions for success.

Replying to a question on the efforts of the custodian of the two holy mosques to attain unity of the Arab Maghreb, the Algerian foreign minister replied that these efforts reflect the concern of the Kingdom and the eastern part of the Arab homeland for the Arab Maghreb's problems. He affirmed that the sons of the Arab Maghreb countries are united in their common ambition to see the greater Arab Maghreb established.

In responding to a question on the results of his visits to several Arab capitals and whether he believed there was Arab agreement on the topics to be discussed at the Amman emergency Arab summit, he answered that all efforts now center on unifying Arab ranks and concepts.

Speaking of his recent visit to Iran, he pointed out that its purpose was to persuade the Iranians to halt this devastating war.

He added that he had discussed this matter with the UN secretary general and that Arab efforts should be brought under the UN secretary general's efforts to achieve the desired peaceful solution.

The Algerian foreign minister explained that the Iraq-Iran war is the primary concern of the Arab nation. He noted that the purpose of adding issues other than this war to the summit's agenda was so that it could serve as an opportunity to emerge with a unified view on an international Middle East conference.

He also commented that the Iraq-Iran war and particularly its threat to the Arab Gulf states will be raised at the Arab summit, as proposed by the Arab foreign ministers.

Mr Ibrahimi affirmed that the main aims of the emergency Arab summit are to reach a unified stance on the Iraq-Iran war, to help end it, and to reach a unified Arab stance on peace in the Middle East. He concluded: I believe all Arabs must work toward achieving these two unified stances.

Paper Comments on Crown Prince's Visit to U.S.

PM281335 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 19 Oct 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The Considerations and Circumstances Governing U.S.-Saudi Relations"]

[Text] When nuclear weapons became a deterrent and a force that neither superpower could gamble on, detente based on a new international formula became a necessity, one dictated by certain developments and circumstances. This resulted in the current trend of resorting to talks to eliminate the use of force and replacing it with interests, as necessary.

This is why the visit of His Royal Highness Prince 'Adballah, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, to the United States comes at the right time. This is especially true since wars and conflicts with various underlying international objectives continue in the region. In practical terms, this visit represents a development in relations. This is because it is not in the United States' interest to make Israel—which does not conceal its ill intentions even in U.S. secret caves, indulges in espionage, and has been implicated in numerous Arab and international incidents over the past decades—the absolutely privileged party.

As he meets with U.S. leaders, His Highness Prince 'Abdallah realizes that he is carrying the responsibilities of the Arab homeland and the Islamic nation. This is in addition to the Kingdom's ties with the United States, which should be based on more positive relations.

The United States is embarking on a new role in the region. Preparations are also under way for the next U.S. presidential election. In either case, there should be no conflicting interpretations or attitudes due to one-sided desires. Each side is aware of its responsibilities and role within its own great environment. The United States was not drawn into the region against its interests. Therefore, it cannot take positions that run counter to or oppose the interests of the region's states without considering these states' delicate circumstances and without approaching them in a more positive way.

U.S.-Saudi relations gained their positive dimension over a long period of time that enriched the experiment. This is why there should be an appreciation for realities and a clear concept of the future. This in turn means that there should be trust instead of misjudgement, since each country has certain commitments to the other as well as interests in its relations with other countries.

The Kingdom has built a worldwide reputation for its political equilibrium in a world of conflicting blocs. That is the result of its understanding of events and its absolute rejection of two-faced policies, which only lead to fundamentally rejected interaction.

Furthermore, the Kingdom's economic stature has exempted it from international pressure. This has enabled it to make independent decisions and to strengthen its internal and external position. This achievement was attained through relations with various international powers that understand the significance of the respect the Kingdom commands at more than one level.

In light of his highness' visit to the United States and the interest this has aroused at Arab and Islamic levels, we for many reasons think in terms of interests, not emotions. These are dictated by the need for bilateral cooperation and for building bridges that take into consideration the circumstances, requirements, and factors

affecting each country. We believe that both countries are aware of this and consider it when making their calculations in these crucial and difficult times.

United Arab Emirates

FRG Economics Minister Bangemann Begins Talks

Views EEC-GCC Relations

LD281406 Hamburg DPA in German 1109 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, (DPA/VWD)—Today in the UAE, FRG Minister for Economics Martin Bangemann met with Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan Al Nuhayyan and reviewed EEC-GCC relations.

Bilateral relations were also disussed, according to official information from both sides. The UAE currently chairs the GCC, to which Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, and Qatar also belong.

The EEC foreign ministers, at their session in Brussels on 20 October, were unable to agree on a timetable for negotiations with Arab states on creating a free-trade agreement. The EEC particularly fears that Gulf region petrochemicals will flood the world market.

Blames U.S. for Stock 'Crash'

LD291040 Hamburg DPA in German 0933 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi (DPA/VWD)—FRG Minister for Economics Martin Bangemann Wednesday [as received] warned the United States against taking protectionist measures following the stock market crash. Bangemann, while in Abu Dhabi, claimed that the stock market crisis was primarily the result of U.S. economic policies and the large U.S. budget deficit. He said he considers sanctions to be harmful even in the case of trade with Iran.

In noting his talks with the UAE deputy prime minister, Shaykh Hamdan, on EC-GCC cooperation, Bangemann stated that proposals exist to give the cooperation agreement a political dimension. He did not go into further detail. [passage omitted]

USSR's Vorontsov Arrives on 'Official' Visit

JN281753 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA)—Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, arrived in Baghdad today on an official visit to Iraq. The Soviet official will hold talks with Iraqi officials on bilateral relations and developments in the region, particularly the Iranian aggression against Iraq. The Foreign Ministry under secretary received the Soviet official at the airport.

Received by 'Aziz

JN281914 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, met with Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, here today. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations, current developments in the region, and the deliberations under way in the UN Security Council on the implementation of Resolution 598. The Soviet official arrived here earlier today.

'Aziz on Amman Summit, Gulf, USSR Relations

PM281701 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 23 Oct 87 pp 21-22

[Interview with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[Text] *Al-Hawadith*: Does Iraq object to the expansion of the agenda of the forthcoming summit conference scheduled to be held in Amman, thus making it an ordinary summit?

'Aziz: In practical terms, an emergency summit cannot be turned into an ordinary summit, which would require a prior Arab League Council meeting at the foreign ministers level to prepare the agenda. It would also entail many political, organizational, financial, and other draft resolutions and long preparations. An extraordinary summit, however, is a conference held to discuss one issue and preparations for it could be made the day before. We have had ordinary and extraordinary summit conferences and we know the mechanism. That is why it is not possible to change the forthcoming Amman summit into an ordinary one.

Al-Hawadith: What do you expect of the summit?

'Aziz: The call for a summit did not originally emanate from Iraq. It came from a group of Arab states concerned about the situation and the Iranian threats to Iraq and other Arab states. If you go back to the original agenda, you will see that it states that the purpose of the summit conference is to discuss the Iraq-Iran war and the Iranian threats to the Gulf states. Iraq agreed because we naturally believe that this matter should be considered in an Arab framework and that it should be tackled at a high level. We will explain to our Arab brothers the nature of the Iranian threat not only to Iraq—because the threat to Iraq has been known and tangible for 7 years—but also to others.

Kuwait will explain the aggression to which it is being subjected and Saudi Arabia and others will talk about the threat of aggression which they sense. The Arab states which are the target of aggression and which understand the Iranian aggressive nature will address the summit, which should then draw the right conclusions.

Al-Hawadith: Will you remind the Arab states of the Joint Defense Pact?

'Aziz: The pact should not only be recalled by Iraq. The Arab states should remind one another of that pact because it was not concluded just for Iraq. It has been in existence since the inception of the Arab League. It represents a commitment made by the Arab states to one another. We have said and say again that we, as Arab states, should honor our commitments to one another.

Al-Hawadith: Do you believe, Minister, that the Arab states did not implement the Joint Defense Pact in connection with the Iraq-Iran war because of differences with the Iraqi regime or are there other reasons in your opinion?

'Aziz: We were not in agreement with the Syrian regime when we participated with the Syrians in the 1973 war. That provides the clear answer that the Joint Defense Pact has nothing to do with regimes; it is a pact of states. We are committed to one another, not as governments but as states. Take NATO, for example, as commitments continue when a Labor government in Britain is replaced by a Conservative government or when the right in France is replaced by the left. That is the nature of joint defense agreements. They have nothing to do with how governments view one another.

Al-Hawadith: What results should the Amman summit produce if it is not to be considered a failure?

'Aziz: Without using the words success and failure, we believe that the summit will have been useful if the leaders attending discuss in depth the Iranian threats to them all. This summit is not being held solely for the sake of Iraq or Saudi Arabia or Kuwait. It should not be seen as such, otherwise it will lose its historic value. There is an Iranian threat to the Arab nation. That threat was not fully understood at the beginning.

Let us take the Israeli threat for example. That threat is understood. Mauritania, as an Arab state, has not been involved in an armed conflict with Israel nor has Israel occupied Mauritanian territory, but Mauritania knows that Israel is an aggressive entity and that Mauritania is as much a target of such aggression as Jordan, Egypt, the

Palestinians, the Lebanese, and others. The Amman summit conference is asked to conduct an objective analysis of Iran's "aggressiveness."

Al-Hawadith: You know perfectly well, Minister, that some Arab leaders do not share your opinion nor do they view Iran as you do.

'Aziz: Yes, and I say that the leaders should analyze this aggression phenomenon and take the appropriate stand. Yes, some of them do not agree with us that Iran is a phenomenon of aggression against the Arab nation. Syria regards Iran as its ally. That is a fact. Since the present Iranian regime came to power, Syria has been in alliance with it. That is a fact, but I as an Arab believe, and so do many non-Iraqi Arabs, that it is an abnormal alliance and a threat to Arab interests. This is not merely an Iraqi conviction, it is the conviction of a great number of Arab intellectuals and masses.

Al-Hawadith: There is a difference of opinion, for example, regarding the Western fleets. Syria believes that these fleets should be withdrawn, whereas the Gulf states believe they should stay. How do you propose to tackle this matter at the summit conference?

'Aziz: That is the task of the summit: to discuss and then draw conclusions unanimously, if possible, or by majority, if not.

Al-Hawadith: It has been said that the states of the region agree with the big powers that Iraq should stop the tanker war.

'Aziz: That is not true.

Al-Hawadith: Have some states, particularly superpowers, changed or retracted their positions since their unanimous support for Resolution 598 about 6 months ago?

'Aziz: It would be inaccurate to say they have retracted. The 5 permanent members and the other 10 members unanimously adopted Resolution 598, but so far these states cannot agree among themselves on the means and timetable for implementing the resolution. That is the accurate and objective summing up of the situation. These states, 15 of them, have different views and interests. They are bound to need some time to agree. We, on our part, hope that they reach agreement quickly and honor their commitments under the resolution firmly, urgently, and without hesitation. The fact of the matter as we see it now, however, is that not all these states are determined to move with the same speed or are prepared to acknowledge the facts with the required speed.

The fact is: Iraq has welcomed Resolution 598 and shown sincere willingness to implement it, whereas Iran has not shown such willingness and is playing games, maneuvering, and devising ways of concealing its real intentions. Some states have accommodated and continue to accommodate the Iranian position. These states cannot convince us or anyone else that Iran accepts the resolution, but they still accommodate the Iranian position, perhaps out of selfish interest or because they need more information. That is up to them, but we maintain they are mistaken. They are either mistaken or they support the position of the side which insists on war and aggression.

Al-Hawadith: I think that when you spoke of a side which accommodates the Iranian position you were referring to the Soviet Union, which has maintained that sanctions are premature and that a cease-fire should be simultaneous with the formation of a commission to determine responsibility for the conflict, a stand close to the Iranian position. Do you think the Soviets are trying to obstruct the work of the [Security] Council?

'Aziz: If we are talking about time, the Soviet Union is one of the states which is in no hurry.

Al-Hawadith: And if we are talking about the Soviet foreign minister's statement about concurrence?

'Aziz: We have firmly rejected that proposal and told the Soviets so very clearly.

Al-Hawadith: What was their reply?

'Aziz: They listened to what we had to say. They are well aware of our opinion.

Al-Hawadith: Some people seem to think that the Security Council is putting pressure on Iraq with special reference to the Council's decision not to rush things and not to go for a direct settlement of the issue. Do you share that view?

'Aziz: To be precise, Iraq believes the resolution should be implemented quickly, which is only logical. I add that Iraq does not favor speed at the expense of the sound contents of the resolution. We want the resolution to be implemented soundly, honestly, and as it was originally. If that requires some time, then we are not against allowing sufficient time for the comprehensive, sound, and honest implementation of the resolution. We reject speed at the expense of the essence of the resolution and we have not said that we should push for implementation at any cost.

This has not been our position. We do believe, however, that the period that has elapsed was sufficient for drawing the right conclusions, but some Security Council members have not arrived at these conclusions because of certain interests and other reasons.

Al-Hawadith: Was the secretary general wrong to convey the Iranian position the way he did in his report, and did that report give Iran more time in the interest of diplomacy?

'Aziz: The man conveyed to the Security Council what he heard from the Iranian officials but he did not analyze the significance of what he heard from them. That is up to him. He conveyed the position and asked the Council to analyze and draw conclusions.

Al-Hawadith: Are the nine points which the secretary general submitted to Iraq and Iran acceptable to you? I am referring to the points stating what should happen and on what dates.

'Aziz: He submitted to us an initial plan for the implementation of the resolution. We found the plan in harmony with the resolution's implementation sequence. We told him: We are ready to sit with you to fill the gaps. There are no dates in the plan. Timing would have been discussed if the other side, that is Iran, had accepted the plan in principle, but the other side did not accept the plan. It did not respond to the secretary general's plan but raised its own stance instead. That is why it was impossible to begin discussions on the secretary general's plan to draw up a timetable for every article of the resolution.

Al-Hawadith: Let us talk about the Soviet Union and its rapprochement with Iran, bearing in mind that the friendship treaty between Iraq and the Soviet Union and the fact that Soviet officials maintain that the Soviet Union is still selling arms to Iraq. How do you explain the Soviet-Iranian rapprochement?

'Aziz: We are not against the establishment of relations between one state or another and Iran. We wish we could have normal relations with Iran, but we will not allow the establishment of relations at the expense of Iraq and its legitimate interests by any side.

Al-Hawadith: Is the Soviet Union establishing relations with Iran at Iraq's expense now?

'Aziz: The Soviet Union should itself define the nature of its relations with Iran. So far, it has not done so sufficiently.

Al-Hawadith: We have heard that your meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was heated and that you criticized the Soviet idea of concurrence. Did Shevardnadze's answer convince you?

'Aziz: I am frank in all my meetings with ministers and officials not only because frankness is a personal characteristic of mine, but also because the Iraqi position is clear. We do not play games or beat around the bush. There is a clear Security Council resolution. Its wording is clear and its structure is clear. We have welcomed it as it is and we will not accept amendment to it by anyone. Nobody can convince us of anything that is not in Resolution 598.

Al-Hawadith: And what about China? Have you met with the Chinese? Do they now admit they are selling Silkworm missiles to Iran?

'Aziz (laughing): You know the answer to that question. There are Chinese arms in Iran. That is a tangible fact not denied by the Chinese.

Al-Hawadith: And how did the Chinese explain to you their position on the matter of selling arms to Iran or their opposition to sanctions against Iran?

'Aziz: Actually, what I and my Arab colleagues heard from the Chinese minister is that the Chinese are in favor of full implementation of the Security Council resolution and that they do not object to a shift to the sanctions phase when necessary. That is the position we heard and we have to closely follow the Council debates to see how that position is applied there and ascertain that it sufficiently helps implement the Security Council resolution.

Al-Hawadith: Which is more important to Iraq, a ban on the sale of arms to Iran or trade sanctions by other states against Iran?

'Aziz: The top priority as far as Iraq is concerned is comprehensive settlement of the conflict in accordance with Resolution 598. We want comprehensive, just, and lasting peace according to the letter and spirit of the resolution. We urge sanctions against Iran because it rejects peace. Our choice is not sanctions. Sanctions are something to which the Security Council should resort as a way of exerting pressure to implement its resolution and limit the capabilities of the side which insists on continuing the war and the aggression. What measures could be effective? All measures could be effective. Military boycott, economic boycott, and political boycott all help contain the aggressor so that he might return to his senses and realize that his plan of continuing the war and the aggression cannot last.

Al-Hawadith: The [Arab] seven-member committee is asking the Security Council to support sanctions against Iran but a number of Arab states have strong economic ties with Tehran. Does that not embarrass you?

'Aziz: It is a known fact that some Arab states are allied with Iran and that others deal with Iran. This is not a happy state of affairs for the Arab nation, but these states are a minority in the Arab group and what the seven-member committee says represents the position of the vast majority of Arab states.

Al-Hawadith: Iraq bet on the United States, but the Americans secretly sold arms to Iran. You bet on the Soviet Union, but it took a stand in defense of Iran. Why is that, in your view?

'Aziz: It is wrong to portray the Iraqi position as one of betting. We only bank on ourselves, our people, and our intrinsic capabilities which are enough to deter aggression. We do not bank on any particular state. We establish objective relations with other states. When there are points of agreement between us and the United States or the Soviet Union, we base our relations on the points of agreement. When one side changes its position and there is no longer sufficient common ground or when the formula changes, we too change our formula.

Al-Hawadith: Is the present formula as follows: The United States and Iraq on one side and the Soviet Union and Iran on the other?

'Aziz: No, that is not an accurate definition of the formula at present.

Al-Hawadith: Could you give us your own definition of the formula?

'Aziz: We have to wait and see how the situation will develop in the future. We will then be able to discuss the matter more accurately.

Al-Hawadith: Does Iraq want the Western fleets to remain in the Gulf?

'Aziz: We have not interfered in this matter. We have neither said that we want nor that we do not want [the fleets]. The matter directly concerns our brothers in the Gulf states and we are in solidarity with them. We will support them in whatever they think is in their interest.

Al-Hawadith: Is Iraq pumping enough oil through the pipelines open to it?

'Aziz: Yes, we are pumping a reasonable amount of oil through the pipelines.

Al-Hawadith: Some of the people critical of Iraq maintain that Iraq is in need of internal reforms. Is that possible, in your opinion? Do you think there is a need for domestic reforms in Iraq?

'Aziz: The Iraqi regime established after the July 1968 revolution is one of the Arab, and even one of the world regimes, which works most for change and development and is against standing still politically, economically, or in any other field. It is a dynamic, open, popular regime which addresses itself to the developing realities. This is one of the main characteristcs of the present Iraqi regime and one of the main factors which has enabled us to efficiently meet the requirements of a protracted war while maintaining an active economy, high public morale, and a high standard of spiritual and material performance. This is felt by friend and foe.

Al-Hawadith: Some critics say the Shi'ites are not sufficiently or adequately represented in Iraq while others talk about the old problem with the Kurds. What is your answer to these criticisms?

'Aziz: We do not divide our people on a sectarian basis. Iraq is not Lebanon where posts are assigned on a sectarian basis. Iraqis get their posts on the basis of their patriotism and qualifications.

Al-Hawadith: The critics refer to the minimal Shi'ite representation in prominent positions.

'Aziz: We do not classify Iraqi citizens as Shi'ites, Sunnis, Christians, or Kurds. Each country has its own classification. In Lebanon, you classify people on the basis of sect and other countries perhaps do the same thing, but we do not classify people in Iraq on the basis of religious or national beliefs. In our classification, the criterion is whether an Iraqi is a good Iraqi, a qualified Iraqi, an Iraqi who deserves one particular post or another. No post is out of bounds for any Iraqi.

Al-Hawadith: Why is Shi'ite representation minimal at high levels?

'Aziz: That is a tendentious interpretation based on a sectarian outlook which is destructive to the Arab entity, as in the case of Lebanon, which Iran wants to see spreading to all Arab states. The aim of such an approach is to divide the Iraqis, the Lebanese, the Egyptians, and the Saudis and to turn them into conflicting tribes which would destroy one another instead of objectively upholding patriotism and pan-Arabism, thus creating a real homeland. You in Lebanon distributed posts according to sects and everyone defended his own sect. As a result, the homeland was lost and the sect no longer provided protection or livelihood for individuals and their families.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Communique No 2,890

JN281748 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Communique No 2,890 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 28 October 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our triumphant Armed Forces pursued their combat activities warding off danger from the homeland of good and amity, standing as an impregnable dam in the face of coveters to defend the land and its inhabitants. The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. To perform the duties mentioned in Communique No 2,889, issued this afternoon, as well as the other activities against enemy units in the sectors of operation, our

valiant Air Force carried out 71 combat missions. Afterward, all of our aircraft returned safely to base under God's protection and guidance.

2. The valiant helicopter gunship knights carried out 28 combat sorties during which they inflicted further losses on enemy personnel, weaponry, and military hardware. They then safely returned with their helicopters to base, praise be to God.

3. A brave force from our units in the I Army Corps northern sector carried out a daring raid against enemy positions oppposite them, storming and destroying them and killing their occupants. The force safely returned to its positions. Elsewhere in the same sector, our units also inflicted the following losses on the aggressors: nine were killed, one tank was destroyed and another damaged, one machinegun was destroyed, and one infantry position and two observation posts were destroyed and their occupants killed.

4. Twenty-four enemy boats tried to approach Al-'Amiq Port last night. The brave port force confronted them, forcing them to flee.

5. One rogue was killed and one infantry position was destroyed and its occupants killed in the II Army Corps central sector. Another rogue was killed and one infantry position was destroyed and its occupants killed in the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

6. Three infantry positions and two observation posts were destroyed, one shovel was set on fire, one 106-mm gun was destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

7. One infantry position and one observation post were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. One Doshka machinegun position and one infantry position were destroyed and two ammunition dumps were blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

8. The criminal enemy shelled Basra residential quarters today with long-range artillery martyring or wounding citizens, including several women. We ask God to have mercy on our martyrs and we wish our wounded swift recovery, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 October 1987

Spokesman on Targets of Attack

JN281808 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Bagdhad, 28 Oct (INA)—Iraq has affirmed that the raids Iraqi aircraft carried out today and last night had the Shiraz oil refiner, which is located outside the town and to the north of it, as a specific target. A military spokesman told INA today that the raids were also specifically directed against the chemical factory, which is also outside the town and to the east of it, as well as an oil station and three maritime targets.

Northern Area Fighting Denied

JN290745 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Oct (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims about fighting in the Mawt area [name as received] in the border zone of northern Iraq. In a statement to INA a short while ago, the spokesman said that what had occurred was only an exchange of fire between ambushes, patrols, and front-line barriers. He added: Following the scandals to which the Iranian media were subjected, we thought the Iranian regime would stop claiming the destruction of entire brigades and regiments, as well as the killing of hundreds all at once. It seems, however, that the ruling regime in Iran has only lies with which to face its crises.

Concluding his statement, the Iraqi militry spokesman asserted that they have not lost a single platoon nor have they lost a regiment, a tank, or a vehicle because nothing that can be called a battle has actually taken place.

Shelling Kills 6, Wounds 23

JN291029 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Oct (INA)—Unrestrained by morals, the criminal Iranian regime continued to shell residential areas in the city of Basra last night and today. In a statement to INA a short while ago, an Iraqi military spokesman said that as of this morning the shelling had resulted in the martyring of 6 people, including 2 women and 2 children, and the wounding of 23 others, including 5 children and 4 women. The shelling also destroyed a number of houses. The spokesman drew the world's attention to the criminal behavior of this regime, which insists on war and aggression and which kills women and children.

Shamir Agrees in Principle to Peace Conference

TA281443 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Oct 87 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir agrees to the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East after an agreement is reached between the warring parties, in order to bestow an international seal of approval upon the agreement. The prime minister's new stand, which had previously been a subject of speculations and denials, was revealed for the first time following his talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz about 2 weeks ago. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir revealed details of his stand in a conversation with a delegation of FRG Bundestag members yesterday.

Shamir again made it clear that he objects to the convening of an international conference under whose auspices peace talks between Israel and Jordan would be conducted. He said these talks must be conducted in direct negotiations. "An international conference may be convened after the parties have achieved an agreement. Such a conference would bestow an international seal of approval on whatever was agreed upon between the parties." The prime minister stressed that Israel and the United States believe in direct negotiations and that "the option of an international conference had dissolved" after the Shultz talks.

Shamir To Boycott UK During European Tour

TA281258 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Oct 87 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will not visit London in the course of his planned tour of several European capitals. Shamir decided to omit Britain from his tour as an expression of protest against British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's support for an international peace conference.

Shamir harshly criticized Thatcher's policies. The way he sees it, Thatcher is closer in her position to the Palestinians and the PLO. Shamir has recently asked: Why does she busy herself with the PLO? Let her deal with the IRA in Northern Ireland.

In the course of his European tour, which is scheduled for the beginning of 1988, Shamir plans to visit Italy, Switzerland, France, and the Scandinavian countries.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office believe that the question of an international conference has now been struck off the agenda in the wake of the failure of Shultz' talks in Moscow. The prime minister also intends to leave for the United States next year and his first destination will be Miami where he will attend a meeting of leaders of Jewish organizations. On his way back he will confer with President Reagan in Washington. In view of the political freeze, it is doubtful that new political ideas will be raised in the Washington talks.

Rabin on U.S. Aid; Terms Iran 'Best Friend'

TA290805 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Report by Ya'el Dan on a speech by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the Association of Foreign Journalists in Jerusalem on 28 October]

[Text] [Dan] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said yesterday that he does not see a reason for a cut in U.S. aid to Israel. The aid, Rabin said, is a small and unimportant component of the U.S. budget and will not solve the economic problems of the United States.

[Begin Rabin recording in English] We believe that the administration is committed to us, as a result of the decision on the part of the Government of Israel to end the Lavi project. In a written statement by Secretary Shultz to the prime minister, and by Secretary Weinberger to me, to maintain the present level of...[end recording]

[Dan, interrupting] The defense minister added that Iran is Israel's best friend. The Khomeyni regime, Rabin said, will not last forever. Therefore, we do not intend to change our position toward Tehran. The Iran-Iraq war, Rabin said, removed the Iraqi threat from Israel and broke the Arab countries' front against Egypt and the peace with Israel.

Beilin on Rabin's Remarks

TA290808 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] In reaction to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks that Iran is Israel's best friend, Foreign Ministry Political Director General Yosi Beilin says it is difficult to view Iran as a friend. Khomeyni's regime, Beilin told our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel, is one of the world's darkest regimes. As long as it does not change it is difficult to term Iran a friend.

Syria's Talas on 'Strategic Parity' With Israel

TA281704 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Report by Gay Bekhor]

[Text] In a very self-confident tone, Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas told *Jaysh al-Sha'b*, the Syrian military publication, that the best way to handle Israel is to repeat the method adopted in October 1973. We will not give up even one strip of land from all the conquered territories, he said in the interview, even if this entails 100 wars against Israel.

So much for quotes from Talas' remarks. But the most important point in his comments is that this is the first time any Syrian official—and Talas, of course, is a senior official—has claimed that the Syrian Army has achieved strategic parity with Israel.

Talas goes on to break down the areas in which this balance has been reached. These areas include the human factor, where he claims parity has been achieved in both quantity and quality, and the area of procurement. Talas notes here that the Syrian Army has been equipped with modern arms.

In the Syrian regime's glossary, the phrase strategic parity implies a state of affairs in which Syria's military level will be on a par with Israel, enabling Syria to launch a war against Israel and win.

The Syrian Army is currently ready to withstand any possible provocation, Mustafa Talas added, reiterating that great progress has been achieved in strategic parity with Israel. Israel, he said, will not comply with our just demands for peace as long as it feels superior.

It is not yet clear on what the grounds the Syrian defense minister made these remarks. But he may have come out with these statements against the backdrop of the serious economic crisis that has been afflicting Syria over the last few months. Observers maintain that the announcement on the partial attainment of parity would allow the Syrian regime to impose more drastic economic measures throughout the country without encountering bitter internal opposition.

Foreign Ministry Seeks Arrangement in Awad Case

TA280938 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Oct 87 p 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] Responding to expressions of concern by U.S. diplomats, Foreign Ministry sources said yesterday they believed a way would be found to allow Palestinian nonviolence activist Mubarak Awad, an American citizen, to stay in Jerusalem despite the revocation of his local residence permit by the Interior Ministry.

"There's a quiet and businesslike dialogue going on with the American Embassy, in a good atmosphere, and I believe things will be ironed out," said one source.

The source cautioned, however, that policy regarding Awad was set primarily by security officials and the Interior Ministry, not the Foreign Ministry.

The Interior Ministry maintains that Awad's extended residence abroad and U.S. citizenship legally nullify his status as a resident.

Awad told *The Jerusalem Post* that people inquiring on his behalf at the Israeli Embassy in Washington were told that he would be allowed to retain his Jerusalem residence permit.

If his permit is not restored, Awad, who was born in Jerusalem, will have to leave the country when his tourist visa expires on November 21, and may not be allowed back.

Awad says he will take his case to the High Court of Justice. [passage omitted]

PRC Experts Attend Bet Dagan Irrigation Seminar

TA281452 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Oct 87 p 6A

[Report by Aharon Pri'el; all Chinese names as published]

[Excerpts] "I am very happy to be in Israel. Your expertise in irrigation is very important to us in the People's Republic of China, and it is also important for the development of Third World countries," Yao Jinxian, one of the three PRC experts attending an international seminar on irrigation at the Vulkani Institute in Bet Dagan, told *Ma'ariv* yesterday. [passage omitted]

Tu Yongzhang of the Water Conservancy Research Institute at Gansu said that his country was particularly interested in the implementation of Israeli irrigation systems for the development of arid areas. A UN-sponsored joint Sino-Israeli irrigation project is currently under way and PRC experts are particularly interested in purchasing Israeli irrigation equipment. Tu entered Israel on a PRC diplomatic passport while his two colleagues, Wan Zhenjing and Yao Jinxian, entered on ordinary passports in which entry visas to Israel had been stamped.

The three PRC experts are attending the international seminar on irrigation on an Israeli Foreign Ministry stipend. This seminar, the 18th of its kind, is attended by 37 participants from 25 countries including countries with which Israel does not maintain diplomatic relations such as Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Poland, and Hungary.

HADASH Submits No-Confidence Over Gilbo'a Plan

TA281523 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Oct 87 p 3

[Report by Knesset correspondent Shlomo Ginosar]

[Text] HADASH and the Progressive List for Peace [PLP] have submitted no-confidence motions following the Gilbo'a report on Israeli Arabs.

Knesset Member [MK] Tawfiq Tubi of HADASH explained his motion by saying that the report reflects a policy aimed at damaging and exterminating the elected institutions of the Arab population.

In its motion, the PLP states that the Gilbo'a-Arens plan joins Deputy Defense Minister Mikha'el Deqel's and Rehav'am Ze'evi's deportation plans. "All these plans form a pattern, the real meaning of which is government-abetted racism," MK Muhammad Mi'ari said yesterday, explaining the PLP's no- confidence motion.

'Major Decline' Noted in S. Lebanon Incidents

TA281900 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
28 Oct 87 p A6

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] There has been a major decline of some 50 percent in the number of attacks in the security zone in south Lebanon this year. There has also been a significant change in the areas chosen for attack: 95 percent take place on the border of the security zone, or north of it when the terrorists find it difficult to get closer to the international border.

The IDF gives three reasons for the decline in attacks: First, the fact that the IDF's deterrent activity is now directed mainly by the lower echelons, the platoon and company commanders who are in the field and "know better than others what should be done," according to a senior officer. Second, the increase in Israeli initiated activity beyond the red line in the security zone. And finally, an ongoing attempt to vary the routines of operations in order to surprise the terrorists with a new type of action each time.

Beyond this, senior officers in the region say the message passed on to villagers by Israel— that if the villagers disrupt terrorist activity and prevent their freedom of movement, the villagers will also attain peace—has slowly sunk in. A senior officer says: "The number of actions foiled thanks to the opposition of the villagers to terrorists crossing through their lands is no less important, and might even surpass, the number of actions that the IDF manages to foil."

The IDF recently transferred one of its positions to the SLA [South Lebanese Army]. A senior officer in the area says: "The SLA has been sharply strengthened and is really blooming. After a low period about a year ago when there were many cases of desertion and it was difficult to fill up the vacant positions, there are now many people wishing to enlist. There is an opportunity to select the better ones and the level of training exercises has improved. The SLA can now be relied upon and we can reduce the burden on ourselves."

Senior IDF officers also point out that incidents of SLA men firing into Lebanese villages have almost completely stopped. Such firing incidents in the past heated up the area and set off reprisal actions, mainly by the Amal people.

Two new border crossings were recently opened with the aim of making life easier in south Lebanon. One crossing is on the red line on the northern boundary of the security zone in the region of Al-Nabatiyah and the other on the international border between Lebanon and Israel in the area of Al-Malikiyah.

'Serious Disturbances' Occur in Bethlehem

TA281800 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Report by Zohar Melamed]

[Text] There were serious disturbances from midday at the College de Freres in Bethlehem. Hundreds of university students used rocks to block a road adjoining the university and raised Palestinian flags. An IDF force which was rushed to the area was hit with Molotov cocktails and stones. The force dispersed the demonstrators with tear gas and rubber bullets. During the action a group of soldiers was caught among the demonstrators and since their lives were endangered they fired in the air and afterward at legs. As a result of the firing, a 22-year-old local man, known as a regular participant in disturbances, was wounded. He has been detained in the past.

Editorial Emphasizes Palestinians Seek Peace

TA272014 Jeruslem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
26 Oct 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The Likud and Disregard of Factors That Escalate the Conflict"]

[Text] Discussions are currently taking place within the ranks of the Likud party on the situation in the West Bank. Apparently some elements in this party have begun to address the political realities prevailing in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It has become clear to all members of the Likud, and maybe to most Israelis, that the Palestinians are a principal party in the Arab-Israeli conflict, that disregard for Palestinian rights will bring no benefit to the Israelis, and that such disregard by Israelis will make things more difficult and create a great many problems for the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

Members of the Likud who have come to realize the dangers inherent in the construction of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip should also realize that their role must not be confined to issuing warnings about these dangers behind closed doors. Instead they should raise their voices and communicate their views to the Israeli people, who are being subjected to false propaganda campaigns and empty promises.

Just as all other Israelis, Likud members should understand that our Palestinian people yearn to achieve a just peace. Moreover, the Palestinians are interested in terminating this bloody conflict as their highest priority and in a way that ensures the achievement of their national rights to live in

peace side by side with the Israelis. To make this dream a reality, Israeli policy should deal with the facts as they are, not as Israel wishes or desires. The current policy is based on disregarding the factors that escalate the conflict. History is full of examples of what happens when all the factors that ignite flames and pour oil on the fire are ignored.

2 French Gendarmes Killed, 1 Critically Wounded

NC291045 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Two French soldiers were killed and a third was seriously injured in an attack that took place in the Al-Dawrah area near the Shell intersection [in East Beirut]. According to reports, the French military personnel—1st Lieutenant (Mondon), NCO (Cruise), and Private (Colineau)—were buying copper artifacts in the Al-Dawrah area when they were gunned down by two gunmen who were inside a red Datsun automobile, which did not carry license plates. The gunmen used two 9-mm machineguns. (Mondon) was killed instantly, while (Cruise) and (Colineau) were taken to the Hotel Dieu Hospital. (Cruise) died later, while (Colineau) remains in critical condition.

Earlier reports had said all three Frenchmen were killed instantly. The French soldiers were part of the force assigned to protect the French Embassy, the Embassy had explained to our radio. The French press attache told our radio: We cannot accuse anyone, but it is known that we have received threats from several parties. He added that the Embassy will issue a statement on the incident shortly. This is the second attack against France in the eastern [Christian] area. French Military Attache Colonel Christian Goutierre was assassinated near the entrance to the French Embassy in Al-Hazimiyah [on 18 September 1986]. The assassin was later apprehended.

Witness Urged To Come Forward

NC291508 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] The French ambassador in Beirut has received telephone calls from President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, and Minister Joseph Skaf, who strongly denounced the criminal incident that left two French soldiers dead and a third wounded in the Al-Dawrah area today. AFP has reported that President al-Jumayyil condemned the attack and asked the competent departments to begin immediate investigations and identify the criminals.

The Lebanese Forces Information Department has again asked a girl who witnessed the attack to do her national duty and telephone the department on 580681. Eyewitnesses have reported that a girl driving a BMW 320 saw the whole operation.

Liberation Battalion Fires RPG at Syrian Forces

NC291234 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Gunmen fired an RPG-7 at the Beau Rivage Hotel, headquarters of the Syrian occupation forces command in West Beirut, at 1215 today. The rocket was fired from the Tallat al-Khayyat area. The Liberation Battalion has claimed responsibility for the operation.

'Deal' To Release Briton, Frenchman Reported

JN291011 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0940 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Beirut—Informed sources in Beirut have said the issue of the foreign hostages in Lebanon will witness a move in the next few days and that there is more than one hostage on the release list. These sources also said the South Korean diplomat who was kidnapped in West Beirut and who has been released, was one of the first hostages whose release has been decided. The sources did not rule out that a British hostage and another French hostage will be released in case a deal is concluded. The same sources hinted that the deal has been completed. The deal provides for payment of more than a $3 million ransom.

Press Cited on Possible Release of 6 Hostages

NC281914 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Press sources in Beirut have reported that around six foreign correspondents detained in Lebanon may be released. Intensive contacts have recently been held with the parties concerned with the hostages issue, particularly the pro-Iranian Hizballah, which is believed to be holding several of the 27 [as heard] foreign hostages in Lebanon.

Al-Huss Returns from Damascus, Makes Statement

NC282110 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss returned to Beirut from Damascus tonight after a visit to Syria. During his visit he met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, with whom he discussed developments in Lebanon and the region. Upon his return, Al-Huss said:

President al-Asad and I discussed the situation in Lebanon. We reviewed political and economic developments, living conditions, and the issue of security. As you would expect, we spoke about the preparations currently under way for the Amman summit and the possible political implications of this summit for Arab affairs in general and the Lebanese issue in particular. We also discussed the mission of U.S. Envoy Richard Murphy. Before my meeting with President al-Asad, I met with Vice President Khaddam. We discussed basically the same issues. The atmosphere of the talks was cordial and our views were very similar to theirs.

Birri Hints at Possible Run for Presidency

NC290715 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Excerpts] The deterioration is accelerating and prospects for solutions are appearing increasingly dim, at least in the foreseeable future. This comes amid an escalating political pressure whose winds have been

blowing from Damascus, capital of the Syrian occupation, for several days. These winds have carried inflammatory statements and positions which serve to perpetuate the boycott [of the president] and to fragment the state and its institutions. [passage omitted]

Minister Nabih Birri disclosed yesterday that he had told Patriarch Sfayr that it is no longer in the interest of the Maronites to cling to a sectarian regime, as he put it. According to Birri, this is because the presidency will revert to the Muslims. Birri did not fail to disclose that he might either run as a presidential candidate or nominate an economic expert from any other sect who can overcome the economic crisis.

Birri Leaves for Algiers Via Damascus 28 Oct
NC290548 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, left Beirut last night for Damascus on his way to Algiers to attend celebrations marking the anniversary of the Algerian revolution. Birri is accompanied by an Amal Movement delegation. The visit to Algeria is taking place in response to an official invitation.

PSP Statement on Domestic Crisis, Gulf War
NC282059 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Statement issued by PLP Politburo after a meeting chaired by PSP leader Walid Junblatt in Bayt al-Din on 28 October]

[Excerpts] 1. The conferees discussed the main features of Amin al-Jumayyil's policies, which all work together to further destroy Lebanon, exacerbate its crises, and hinder prospects for ending the total collapse with which it is threatened. By ignoring the constraints of the Lebanese nationalist equations, Amin al-Jumayyil is attempting once again, despite the annulment of the ill-fated 17 May agreement, to tie official Lebanese policy to that of Israel, the United States, and the Egypt of Camp David. Al-Jumayyil's disregard of the national will is going to lead to serious consequences and open the door for a new round of conflict that is bound to be even more ferocious and may destroy Lebanon's very existence.

Al-Jumayyil's alleged initiative for political reform is nothing but an obvious maneuver to open the doors that have closed in his face. This initiative will not lead to any sort of reform or offer any tangible concessions on political sectarianism, the structure and role of the Army, or Lebanon's relations with the Arab world. Meanwhile, Al-Jumayyil's socioeconomic policy has led to the decline of the national currency, the total collapse of all services, and real famine. These are the hallmarks of the Al-Jumayyil era. With any chance of a solution doomed to failure under the Phalangist regime, the establishment of a national authority to handle the affairs of our national areas is indispensable if we are to prevent the chaos that Al-Jumayyil has in mind for these areas.

2. The Politburo appeals to popular and trade union movements to define their positions in relation to the regime. This is particularly necessary since the crises besetting us are the direct result of Al-Jumayyil's policy. Therefore, the popular and trade union movements cannot continue to ignore the culprits responsible for Lebanon's tragedies. [passage omitted]

3. The Politburo members were briefed on the visit to the northern areas by a Politburo delegation led by Comrade Sharif Fayyad, PSP deputy leader and secretary general. The Politburo wishes to commend the steps taken to upgrade party activity in the North. [passage omitted]

4. The Politburo members reviewed developments in the Gulf, stressing once more that the presence of U.S. and Western fleets in the Gulf is bound to extend the scope of the war. The conferees cite as an example of this the recent events in another fraternal country, namely, Kuwait. We condemn the fact that the Gulf war has been extended to involve new Arab targets, and again we call for the implementation of UN Resolution 598 so that peaceful navigation in the Gulf may be safeguarded.

Al-Asad Receives Tunisia's Hedi Mabrouk

LD290025 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Foreign Affairs Minister Hedi Mabrouk was received this morning by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. After the meeting, Hedi Mabrouk made the following statement:

I had the honor of being received by President Hafiz al-Asad and I conveyed to him a message from Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, which contained his most sincere greetings and fraternal sentiments, wishes for Al-Asad's good health, and for the further progress, advancement, and strength of the Syrian Arab people under their leader. Concerning the contents of the message and President Hafiz al-Asad's reply, it is natural that President Habib Bourguiba be the first person informed about it. Al-Asad entrusted me with a similar message for the supreme combatant, for whom he has great respect and appreciation. He also has respect for the Tunisian people.

Mabrouk's visit to sisterly Syria comes within the framework of consultations and the exchange of views, a practice the two countries have maintained since the historic meeting between their leaders in 1974. This meeting went a long way toward strengthening ties of fraternity and cooperation between the two peoples. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad, Khaddam Confer With Lebanon's Al-Huss

JN281612 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss at 1330 today. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam attended the meeting. Talks dealt with the current situation in Lebanon and the region.

Earlier today, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Dr al-Huss and discussed with him various aspects of the situation in Lebanon. Viewpoints were in agreement on the need to bolster the national stand in Lebanon. The talks also touched on the Arab situation and the next extraordinary Arab summit.

Lebanese Speaker al-Husayni Arrives in Damascus

NC291027 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] In response to an official invitation, Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, arrived in Damascus today for talks with senior Syrian officials about current developments.

Minister Birri is still in Damascus for talks with Syrian leaders after arriving there last night. PSP leader Walid Junblatt is also expected to arrive in Damascus. Birri and Junblatt will then leave for Algiers to attend the celebrations marking the anniversary of the Algerian revolution

Afghanistan

Najibullah Attends Draft Constitution Session

LD282340 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] A regular session of the commission on the DRA draft constitution was held this afternoon in Gulkhana Palace, headquarters of the DRA Revolutionary Council. The session was chaired by Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and chairman of the commission on the draft DRA constitution.

The session was attended by Comrade Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; members of the Politburo and Secretariat of the PDPA Central Committee; members of the Revolutionary Council and Council of Ministers; and social and cultural personalities of the country.

In addressing the session's members, Comrade Najibullah said:

Our society is witnessing important historical events. The second nationwide PDPA conference ended a week ago. Important decisions were made at this conference about the subsequent duties of the party and government concerning the deepening and consolidation of the process of national reconciliation. A grand assembly will be held in 1 month at which the country's constitution will be approved and a president will be elected. Following this, the National Assembly will come into being.

Comrade Najibullah added: Work on the draft constitution which began a year ago is passing through its final stages. Three months have elasped since the people began expressing their opinions concerning the draft constitution. During this period, our society witnessed important political events in the country. This is the first time that such an important national document has been submitted for public consideration. All the strata and classes of society actively took part in formulating the draft constitution by expressing their views and proposals. Some 2 million people have taken part in meetings and gatherings which were convened to explain the draft constitution. In all state organs, special commissions started work in order to collect and assess the views and opinions. It must be mentioned that the role of the commission on the draft constitution, in particular its work committee, is the focal point in organizing all these affairs.

At today's session, 'Abdurrahim Hatef, chairman of the National Front and head of the work commission on the constitution, spoke about the people's opinion of the draft constitution, as well as their classification and distribution. Salim Majaz, secretary to the work commission on the draft constitution, spoke about changes, amendments to, and an explanation of the draft constitution in light of the views expressed by the people.

Comrade Abdul Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and foreign minister, also spoke at this session on behalf of the first coordinating group. Haji Muhammad Chamkani, first deputy president of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, spoke on behalf of the third coordinating group. Nezamuddin Tahzib, president of the Supreme Court, spoke on behalf of the fourth coordinating group. Mawlawi Ghulam Sarwar Mansur, chairman of the High Council of Ulema and Clergy, spoke on behalf of the second coordinating group to the work committee on the draft of constitution. The speakers presented reports on the work of their groups.

A large number of session participants also freely and democratically expressed their views, both about each article and about the whole constitution. The work committee was assigned to complete the final draft in light of the views expressed.

Nur Addresses PDPA Scientific Conference

LD290939 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0430 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 28, *Bakhtar*—A two-day scientific conference under the title of "October Thinkings and Acceleration of the Process of National Reconciliation" was opened at the Institute of Social Sciences of the Central Committee of the PDPA.

Addressing the conference, Nur Ahmad Nur talked about the historical and universal significance of Great October Socialist Revolution and the friendly and fraternal Afghan-Soviet relations in over six decades. He also threw light on the development of the April Revolution, the holding of the second nation-wide conference of the PDPA, the approval of the reliable party documents and the achievements of the second conference.

Nur Ahmad Nur also talked on the significance of training revolutionary and scientific theory and the role of the Institute of Social Sciences of the PDPA CC to this effect.

Later, the participants of the seminar visited a big photography exhibition which was held in honour of the 70th anniversary of Great October Revolution.

Ziray PDPA Conference Speech on Factionalism

LD261653 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1600 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Speech by Saleh Muhammad Ziray, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, at the 19 October session of the second nationwide PDPA conference in Kabul—recorded]

[Text] At yesterday's PDPA Central Committee plenum, I was commissioned to speak to you about further consolidating unity in the party ranks under the circumstance of the struggle for national reconciliation.

It is quite obvious to every genuine and faithful party member that in the present inner life of the party there is no issue more vital than that of consolidating unity in the party ranks. Therefore, I regard this high confidence entrusted to me as a high honor and the most important party instruction of my life.

Most of all I want to express my sincere support for the instructions and conclusions concerning the immediate duties for consolidating unity in the party ranks embodied in Comrade Najib's report.

The measures for securing party unity reflected in our party documents for the first time have been rationalized. I believe that the implementation of these measures will have a positive effect on party life and activities.

As a veteran member of the party, I took part in the first PDPA congress in 1356 [21 March 1977-20 March 1978], the party conferences during the 1360's [beginning 21 March 1981], and other Central Committee plenums. It is a great pleasure for me to feel the atmosphere of unity and comradeliness in the second nationwide PDPA conference and in dicussing the complicated issues for further accelerating the process of national reconciliation.

In this hall, the spirit of unity was obvious during the voting and talks. In my heart, and I believe in your hearts too, now shines the light of a rapid victory over the pain and misfortune caused by the division in our party ranks over the past 20 years.

I want to begin my speech with this invitation to all delegates to maintain firmly the unforgettable feeling of comradliness, support, and the common aspiration of the fighters' profound perception of infallible unity, which is provided for us by this nationwide party conference, and to pass it on to the broad party masses.

I invite you to pass on this trust to every party member and light in their hearts the pure candle of struggle, action, unity, and cohesion—the candle which brightens our future path of victory and progress.

We have talked a lot about the importance of unity in the ranks of our revolutionary party [words indistinct] a divided rank cannot give a crushing reply to the enemy. A divided army, without doubt, will face defeat. A divided party cannot emerge victorious from the political test. Instead it will lose all its gains and will fall forever in the ashheap of history. This is a law which makes no exception. This is a fact which only the fools and the unwise argue against. It is clear to all then why, time and again, we refer to the problem of unity in the party ranks at the PDPA Central Committee plenums and at provincial party committee meetings. Why, time and again, we repeat to party members that unity is the essential condition for victory in this difficult task of class struggle. Unity among cofighters in a revolutionary struggle is as important as air for respiration; division definitely brings defeat and death.

The answer is simple. Our party has never had the necessary, required level of unity. Hence, talk of unity to some people is so ordinary that they do not think about its meaning. Such talk goes in one ear and out the other. It has been repeated at tribunes and written down in resolutions and decisions in an ordinary manner.

Party brothers, wake up. What I am talking about is not the rules of making speeches or nice slogans. This is the harsh fact of our time. If we do not achieve unity now, tomorrow our defeat will be definite. We will lose all the gains of the revolution. Political, even physical death may perhaps be waiting for us. What other form of talk is needed so that this simple fact enters your heads or your hearts? What other words are needed to make each one of you struggle for party unity, not because of fear but because of your conscience?

We have talked about unity in all our plenums and party conferences. We recall the nationwide party conference and the 12th Central Committee Plenum, which defined factionalism and explained its causes, and the 14th Central Committee Plenum which issued a resolution about the consolidation of unity in the PDPA.

However, along with recalling past years, it is necessary for us to answer this question: Will we be able to unite our words and actions concerning party unity? Have those comrades who promised to end factional activities and be loyal to unity changed their approach? Let those secretaries of party provincial committees present in this hall reply to this question: What specific measures have been taken by them to put the 14th plenum resolution into practice? How many factionalists have been expelled from the party as a result of sabotage to party unity?

The party has reached the border of serious and new tests with a weak front and disorder in its ranks. What will be the true value of the decisions made and the resolutions approved by the party? At a time when the party is engaged in resolving the great tasks of national reconciliation, any moment it is possible to be stabbed in the back by the factionalists and divisionists. This is not an estimation or imagination. These lessons have been given to us in the seventh district of Kabul city, in Nangarhar, Herat and Sowzjan.

Party life shows that factionalism and egotism have still not been broken. Those still favoring tribalism and nationalism are acting like a snake inside the party. In addition to the old wounds of factionalism, on the eve of a great transformation in the party, a new illness has started—antiparty activities by the opponents to the 18th Central Committee plenum, who hide themselves behind Babrak Karmal in a harmful manner and sometimes in protest.

You can now see the many varieties of factionalism, which divide and separate party ranks. Factionalism is like a snake shedding its skin. It takes another form and again treacherously bites our party. To struggle successfully against factionalism, we need to know its basic features in order to separate them from each other. We need to know its aims and its basic directions, which act against the unity and cohesion of the party. We need to know its characteristics.

First, concerning factionalism, as is well-known, Khaleq and Parcham [PDPA factions] were created in April 1967, when a number of Central Committee members failed to agree on some worthless, tactical issues. The lack of mutual confidence and understanding and doubt and suspicions were destroying the party's internal relations, which were becoming firm. We, the veterans, know that none of the factions had a political or ideological policy that could contradict the decisions of the first party congress. Splits became more serious as a result of different leaders' struggles to achieve power. They did not understand the role and importance of the party as a united organism, in which the action and will of each individual is subject to the general unity of the party. They were unable to (?stand up) out of their circle.

When I recall the last years and the development stages of our revolutionary struggle, I usually feel sad about the unnecessary losses which I could have prevented, and about the loss of those opportunities which I could have benefited from. The hostile factions did not spare any effort to defame their rivals. They forgot the bright honors and wishes of the great cause of freeing Afghanistan's people. They reached the level where they published unnecessary subjects about each other in other parties' publication organs.

The difficult tests have united the party. Remember April 1978, when thousands of peasants, students, tradesmen, officials, and a large number of the progressive intellectuals participated in the funeral ceremony of Mir Akbar Khybar in Kabul streets? Most of the comrades who are present in this hall participated in that ceremony and remember the unity and rallying of the vast masses, which the party was leading toward revolution.

The achievement of political power has brought confusion to most people, including experienced party members, who had not paid attention to the advanced hostile factionalism.

I ask you, the witnesses of the disturbing months in 1358 [21 March 1979-20 March 1980]. Did we not witness Hafizullah Amin ignore all the party standards to grab all the important posts in the state, army, and party for himself and for his relatives? Could we not understand the danger of those incidents? We did. We saw and we understood. But the newly created factionalism then had tied our hands behind our backs. The party members were scattered as a result of disagreement. They were unable to resist the adventurism to which the war of factionalism had cleared the way for attaining power.

It would be simplistic to exonerate the trampling of thousands of lives by a small, savage minority which had lost its mind as a result of drinking people's blood, creating a national tragedy. It is difficult to describe the dictatorial government of Hafizullah Amin in any other terms.

It is difficult to talk clearly about the basic reasons of the tragedy which took place—the hostile unprincipled factionalism which become inflamed inside the party after the April Revolution. Only the assassination of Parchamis and Khalqis and the danger of a direct antirevolution coup d'etat woke the party members up. The party gathered its power once again, threw over the factional disagreements and personal indignation, defended the gains of the revolution, and expressed the power and unlimited possibilities of its unity.

What have the party members learned from the bitter lessons of the lack of awareness and unity? Have these lessons forced party members to become more united, which is necessary in this new stage of the April Revolution? Unfortunately, not. The serious desire to achieve power turned some party members toward the factionalist groups.

But everybody officially recognizes the great value of the basic importance of unity. We all reject with anger the accusation of relating to this or that faction in words, but in fact it is not this way. Today those personalities who were in the front line of factionalism have left the political arena. The disagreements which caused the factionalism have long been forgotten. But the selfishness of factionalism is strengthening and developing. It is bringing to the surface the past indignations and unsatisfactory ambitions. It is leading astray the youths who are the future hope of our party. Today the hostility of factionalism in general covers the middle and upper circles of party leadership, which work in Kabul and in the provincial capitals. The important fact is that the vast masses of party members were and are outside of this factionalism.

Party power is also embodied in this place. The diversity of opinion, which is being fanned by the factionalists, cannot be understood by the toiling people of Afghanistan. Separation from the masses is a manifestation of the uselessness, falseness and artificiality of hostile factionalism. There is no logical reason to acquit hostile factionalism. In addition, hostile factionalism is the root for other factional waves, which have been manifested in terms of sectionalism, nationalism, and tribalism.

These factionalists consider their own interest above those of the party, and use their posts in the interests of other harmful objectives. They appoint around them those people who have personal loyality to them, and

also their relatives and families. They separate them from other party members and keep them inside their own circle. Ambitious and demagogic people want to hide their idle life in this manner.

We will not allow dark and dirty corners in our party home, in which dirty plots take place, false rumors are spread, and new conspiracies are hatched. [applause] We will decisively struggle against the ideology and psychology of narrow-minded persons hidden in our party ranks, and against timidity, disloyality, arrogance, selfishness, pride, and other disgraces.

All that can be said about the new factionalism, which was created after the 18th PDPA Central Committee Plenum, and its antiparty nature, was discussed in detail in Comrade Najib's report. The false initiatives, made under Babrak Karmal's name, were only superficial moves of the new factionalists. But, in real terms, their efforts were concentrated on resolving their earlier mistakes and preventing the expansion of the social basis of revolution and the implementation of social and economic transformations. They created idleness in establishing peace, and distanced words and actions. Fresh deviationists are interested in the various types of factional deviation because by using the opposition inside the party, and by causing splits in the party structure, they can rectify their earlier mistakes and antiparty activities. What has the party gained from the activities of the factionalists? Nothing except political, idealogical, moral, and structural losses.

The lack of party unity brings into doubt the gains of the April Revolution. It affects the prestige of the party as a revolutionary vanguard of Afghanistan's people, and harms its authority in the view of the CPSU and the Soviet people. The lack of unity in the party slows the party's struggle to establish peace and national compromise. It contributes to the continuation of bloodshed, Afghans' suicide, and the destruction of the country. It destroys party measures and jeopardizes the process of national and democratic transformation.

Who wants to maintain relations with a party which is not able to bring order in its own ranks? Each party member should think about this. The lack of party unity causes great damage to party political-training work. It creates a spirit of mistrust about the combatant role of the party among the people. And it gives our enemies many reasons for spreading false antirevolutionary propaganda.

The lack of party unity will cause great damage to the moral and ethical training of the new generation, who are the future revolutionaries. It injures party pride and changes the people's destiny. The lack of party unity makes party organizational principles unstable and weakens party discipline. It creates damage beyond repair for cadres, and destroys democratic centralism as a basic rule for the party's activities and organizational structure. Therefore, we should decisively free ourselves from factionalism and clean the party of those who stand at the side of the factionalists. [applause]

Today, when the future of peace and revolution is being determined in our country, we should be aware of those who knowingly or unknowingly draw the party toward elimination. It is necessary to start a serious approach at all levels, from the Central Committee up to the party groups, expelling and punishing party members.

Many measures have been envisaged in the draft resolution to organize and carry out practical work concerning the eradication of any type of factionalism and really consolidating party unity under the conditions for the struggle for national reconciliation. This resolution should penetrate the hearts and minds of each party member and should be transformed into a real oath of loyality to party unity and cohesion and further consolidation in practice. Each party member should take an oath before his comrades to wage a firm and irreconcilable struggle against factionalism, sabotage, and a lack of party discipline.

Let the party members' signatures further consolidate this oath, which is as strong as the stones of Hendu Kosh and firmer than tempered steel.

Let all those who disobey this oath by action or who are staying quiet about the unity of the party disgrace themselves and their children and incur the permanent hatred of all of Afghanistan's people. [applause]

Let the future generations, the heroes of the revolution, know all those people who had a dark conscience and who were trying to be in two camps at the same time.

Today, discussion about party unity means discussion about the enemies of unity. The struggle for party unity means a struggle against factionalism, sectionalism, and any type of party split.

What do we mean by party unity and what kind of unity we are endeavoring to achieve? I want to say a few words on this.

We do not struggle for any secret, vague, and symbolic unity in which Khalqi embraces Parchami or Tajik kisses Pashtun while at the same time each one thinks about his own factional interests. We want the unity of thought, determination, and action which display themselves in specific affairs and actions. [applause]

We do not need meaningless approval. We need genuine unity at work. We demand creative unity from everyone in his respective field in the accomplishment of allotted duties. We need such creative activities in the sphere of providing armed defense for the people, in the sphere of economic growth, in organization and political training work, in the distribution of goods from grants-in-aid, and in the sphere of receiving refugees.

We need a unity of ranks where every fighter and every member of the party reaches the level of perceiving the general interests of the party and becomes able to devote all of his sentiments, feelings, and actions to general party tasks.

We need a unity in which all party members perceive the words of Khalqi and Parchami and factionalism as words of treachery [applause] for which a harsh, unavoidable punishment for divisive activities is received. We will achieve this unity. Irrespective of the cost, we will transform our rank to a united and unbreakable barrier for restoring peace and bringing accord and national unity to the country for the future prosperity of the people and for the complete victory of the national and democratic revolution.

We have no other path. There is, in fact, no other path. We will succeed in strengthening unity.

Forward for the consolidation of party unity, for the victory of national reconciliation [words indistinct]. [applause]

Keshtmand Briefs Plenum on Conference Results
LD230902 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0442 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 22, *Bakhtar*—A periodical plenary session of the Council of Ministers of the DRA was held on Thursday here.

At the outset, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers, delivered a speech on the results of the work of the second nation-wide conference of the PDPA. He focussed on the policy of national reconciliation and the duties of the ministries, state committees, executive committees of the provinces and state organs for the execution of the decisions of the conference.

He added that the participants of the conference satisfactorily confirmed the need and correctness of the policy of the PDPA and the idea of expansion, deepening and acceleration of the process of national reconciliation which crossed the proceedings of the conference as a red line.

The decisions of the conference, S.A. Keshtmand continued to say, should become the focus of attention of the leaders of ministries, state committees and the executive committees of the councils of people's deputies.

The Council of Ministers at the shortest possible time will adopt special measures for the removal of the shortcomings which were embodied in the reports and speeches of the representatives of the conference as well as for the implementation of the decisions adopted at the conference, said S.A. Keshtmand.

The Council of Ministers unanimously approved a resolution on the preparation for the realisation of the decisions taken at nation-wide conference of the PDPA.

The Council of Ministers also assessed the state of the implementation of the plan and the state budget in the first half year of the current year as well as that of the banking plan.

The Council of Ministers also ratified a decision stipulating the tasks of all the ministries, state committees, offices and the executive committees of the provinces for the second half of the current year.

Evaluating the work of the session on the state of the implementation of the socio-economic development plan and the state budget in the first six months of the current year, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand said that the prominent events such as the policy of national reconciliation, the approval of the draft constitution and the holding of the second nation-wide conference of the PDPA have helped to a certain extent for the successes in the socio-economic growth of the country.

The implementation rate of the plan of industrial production in the state and mixed sectors of the factories were satisfactory, said Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand.

Najibullah Receives Council of Afghan Milat
LD280720 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0437 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 27, *Bakhtar*—Dr. Najibullah, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan received the members of the High Council, cadres and activists of Afghan Milat (Afghan nation) organization, and conversed with them in a sincere atmosphere.

During his conversation concerning the national reconciliation's humanitarian goals, Dr. Najibullah stressed on the need for unity and integrity of all national democratic forces in the country towards the building of our common homeland.

Dr. Najibullah fully explained the active participation of these forces in ensuring nation-wide peace and their share in the country's economic and social life, expressing confidence that Afghan Milat, as a national organization would be able to play its role in our society's political life.

Thereafter, Abdul Hamid Yasin Yusofzai, the member of the High Council of Afghan Milat organization expressed gratitude for the opportunity to meet and speak with Dr. Najibullah on behalf of other participants of the function. He pointed to the Afghan Milat organization's efforts for the implementation of humanitarian policy of national reconciliation, whose aim is halting of

war and fratricide in the country. He expressed the Afghan Milat organization's readiness in active participation in Afghanistan's political life.

Keshmand Attends Kabul City Party Plenums

LD270950 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 26, *Bakhtar*—Party committees of the districts of Kabul city held their plenary meetings here on Sunday.

The meetings were held in support of the decisions of the second nation-wide conference of the PDPA on national reconciliation in an atmosphere of unity and cohesion.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and other Politburo members each participated in the work of the plenums of different party committees.

The main reports of the plenums of the party committees of the districts were read on the decisions of the second nation-wide conference of the PDPA on national reconciliation.

The plenums also stipulated the duties of the committees, party and social organisations in order to expedite the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation.

Members of the party organisations expressed their suggestions on the main reports of the plenums and ratified the decisions taken by the second nation-wide conference of the PDPA and expressed their readiness for their realisation.

Similarly, the participants of the plenums signed the resolution of unity and pledged to carry out all-sided campaigns for the ever-further consolidation of the unity of the party ranks. The participants of the meetings approved the resolutions of the plenums and adopted their plans of operation for the implementation of the decisions of the second nation-wide conference of the PDPA.

Bangladesh

Nationalist Party Chief Urges Opposition Unity

BK281426 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Oct 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] Begum Khaleda Zia, chief of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and leader of Seven-party Alliance, on Friday [23 October] reiterated her call for united movement for removal of the present "autocratic government." Our movement is not for going to power but for the restoration of democracy in the country, she added.

Begum Zia was addressing a conference of representatives of United People's Party (UPP Mia Sadeq) at Dhaka District Sports Association Auditorium on Friday.

Presided over by the party chief, Mia Sadequr Rahman, it was also addressed by BNP leader Major General (Rtd) Majedul Huq and UPP leaders Khondaker Delwar Hossain, Mia Harunur Rashid and Mr. Shamsul Huq. Mia Sadequr Rahman said, "We want unity on the basis of minimum programme to ouster the Government. Our demand on this issue is clear. We want free and fair polls under a neutral government." If Seven-Party and Eight-party Alliances can unite the present Government would not last even till November 10, he said.

Our Munshiganj Correspondent adds: Addressing a public meeting in Munshiganj Begum Khaleda Zia called upon the people to join Dhaka siege on November 10 to express solidarity against "forces of autocracy and conspiracy." Stressing the need for unity of the Opposition parties Begum Zia said unity was essential to pave the way for establishment of democracy in the country. The meeting was organised by the District committee of her party at the local stadium on Friday afternoon.

Begum Zia was critical of the government for harassing the poor farmers. She said that certificate cases and red cards were being served to the farmers which is in contrary to Government assurances. Bringing charges of misappropriation of relief goods, Begum Zia also expressed her concern over swelling unemployment problem. The policy of the Government is contributing to the unemployment problem, she said. Holding the Government responsible for violence on the campus, she said that a section of youth were being provided with arms who were creating terrorism on the campus. The young boys were being used as pawns in the hands of ruling party leader, she alleged.

As regards economic situation of the country, Begum Zia said that the government was following an "import-oriented ecoomic policy to help party peeple to amass wealth through commissions."

Presided over by Mr. A. Hye, President, Munshiganj district Committee of BNP it was also addressed among others by Professor A.Q.M. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Mr. Afazuddin Fakir, Wing Commander (Rtd) Hamidullah, Mr. Siddiqur Rahman, Professor Jahanara Begum and Mr. Shamsul Islam.

Professor B. Chowdury called upon the people to forge unity to force the government to step down as it has come to power "through ballot dacoity."

Opposition Protests 'Biased' News Coverage

BK281502 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 Oct 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] Major political alliances, the Eight-party, Seven-party, Five-party and Jamaat-i Islami Bangladesh on Saturday held separate rallies in the city in protest

against news discrimination of the Opposition political activities on the state-run Radio and Television. The Seven-party Alliance and Jamaat-i Islami attempted to take processions to the Televisions were obstructed by the police on Rampura Road. Police later allowed Mr. Ali Ahsan Mujahid, Amir of city Jamaat to enter the Television Station where he submitted a memorandum to the General Manager of TV.

The procession of the Seven-party was also obstructed by the police near Rampura television station and did not allow the procession to proceed further. Leaders of the Seven-party Alliance addressed the processionists. Mr. K.M. Obaidur Rahman Secretary General of BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] addressing the processionists alleged that the radio and television were giving one-sided and biased news and sometimes distorting the news of the Opposition political parties.

He said that the Radio and Television being public property and run by the taxes of the people had been turned into the Government propaganda media. He demanded equal coverage of the Opposition political activities along with the Government on the radio and television. The Eight-party Alliance held a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue on the day in protest against the news blackout.

Over 300 Political Leaders Arrested 26 Oct
BK281410 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Oct 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] Over three hundred political leaders including three MPs and workers all over the country were arrested on Monday [26 October]. Most of them were put under detention. The police also raided the houses of some prominent political leaders in the city as well as in the districts.

In the city, Mr. Abdul Mannan of Awami League, Col. (Rtd) Oali Ahmed, and Lt. Col. (Rtd) Akbar Hussain of BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party], Mr. Shamsul Arefin of UPP [United People's Party], Mr. Ali Ahsan Mujaheed of Jamaat-i Islami were picked up on Sunday night. Besides, Mr. Rashed Mosharaff, (AL) [Awami League] MP, was arrested from his home town Jamalpur on Sunday night and the district authority gave him one month's detention. Another AL MP Mohammad Ishaq of Chittagong was also arrested at Chittagong Moulana Sobhan of Jamaat-i Islami was arrested from Pabna.

The houses of Awami League leaders Amir Hussain Amu, Tofael Ahmed were raided in the city. Dr. Kamal Hussain, a Presideum member of Awami League, left Dhaka for London on Monday evening. The houses of many BNP, Jamaat-i and Five-party leaders were raided on Sunday night.

When contacted, an official who requested anonymity put the arrests over four hundred. He said the arrests were widespread in the districts and upazila [subdivision] levels. He also said the Government did not receive the total figure of arrests so far. BBC put the arrest figure at 300. Our Khulna and Pabna correspondents reported arrest of 33 and over 60 persons in Khulna and Pabna respectively. In Bogra 17 persons were arrested and Rangpur eight persons were held up. The houses of district level leaders were also raided.

The Eight-party Alliance released a list of arrest of central and district level leaders including Mr. A. Mannan, Mr. Rashed Mosharraf, MP Mr. A.S.M. Firoz, MP Mr. A.B.M. Mohiuddin Chowdhury, former MP Mr. Amzad Hossain. The arrested central and district leaders of Jamaat-i Islami include Maulana Mohammad A. Sobhan, advocate Nazrul Islam, Mr. Ali Ahsan M. Mujahid, Moulana Shamsuddin, Maulana Mominul Huq Chowdhury, Moulana M. Abu Taher, Moulana Badiul Alam, Mr. A. Rashid, Al-Haj Nur Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Moniruzzaman, Dr. Abul Hossain, Moulana A. Bari and Moulana A. Kader. BAKSAL [Bangladesh Awami Krishak Sramik Awami League] Presidium member Sirajul Huq Mia and Mr. Kafiluddin Ahmed, Mr. Jane Alam, Mr. Mojibur Rahman have been taken into custody.

BNP claimed that police raided the houses of leaders including Professor B. Chowdhury, Barrister Salam Talukder, Mr. Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Mirza Abbas, Mr. Salauddin and K.M. Mojibur Rahman.

Different political parties on Monday condemned the large scale arrest of political leaders and workers. Demanding immediate release of all political leaders they warned the government of serious consequences unless they are released immediately. They reiterated their decision to carry forward the movement for restoring democracy.

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina expressing concern over the repressive measures and raids of houses of political leaders sounding a note of warning to the government said, "people would establish their rights through bringing downfall of the government." She called upon the people to ignore all repressive measures.

Professor Muzaffar Ahmed and Mr. Pankoj Bhattarchya, President and General Secretary respectively of National Awami Party, in a joint statement were bitterly critical of the arrest and raids of houses of political leaders. Demanding immediate release of all political detenus.

Mr. Abbas Ali Khan, Acting Ameer [leader] and Mr. Abul Kalam M. Yusuf, General Secretary of Jamaat-i Islami Bangladesh expressed concern over large scale arrest of political leaders including 34 Jamaat leaders. Terming the government steps as undemocratic they said that by such acts the government was pushing the people to a state of confrontation.

The Seven-party Alliance reacting to the large scale arrest and raids demanded immediate release of all political leaders. Mr. Abdur Razzak, General Secretary of BAKSAL also expressed grave concern over such large scale arrest and raids. Mr. A.F.M. Mahbubul Huq of BSD [Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal], the Communist Party of Bangladesh also demanded release of all those arrested. The Five-party Alliance criticising the government action demanded release of all arrested leaders. It said that police raided the house of Shirin Akhter. Police also raided Medical College to arrest Hasanul Huq Inu, it said. The Six-party held a meeting withs Mr. Oali Ahad in the chair and demanded release of all political detenus.

Our Khulna Office adds: —Thirty-three persons including workers and leaders of different opposition political parties in Khulna were arrested by the police from different parts of the city in the early hours on Monday. The arrested persons include Messrs Ashraf Hossain, ex-MP, Sekandar Ali (Dalim) of BNP, Maulana Mufti Abdus Sattar and Alhaj Noor Ali of Jamaat-i Islami, Advocate K.M. Zaman of Communist Party and Azizul Islam of JSD [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal] Inu.

Meanwhile, several processions were brought out in the city by different opposition parties in protest against the arrests on Monday.

BSS adds: —Seven persons belonging to Opposition political parties were arrested from the town during raids Sunday night.

Police sources said arrests were made under the Special Powers Act.

Delhi Reports Nearly 1,500 'Activists' Arrested

BK280502 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, nearly 1,500 political activists have been arrested in a major crackdown on the opposition. The move is to frustrate the opposition demonstration aimed at forcing President Ershad to resign. The 8-party opposition alliance and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Wajed has claimed that at least 1,000 activists and supporters of her alliance have been arrested.

Police Fire Kills 1 Protester, Injures 5

BK290952 Hong Kong AFP in English 0938 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 29 (AFP)—One person was killed and at least five injured when police opened fire on a procession of peasants during a nationwide road and rail blockade, press reports here said Thursday. Police said they opened fire Wednesday on violent demonstrators, killing a 45-year-old man and injuring five others in western Lohagara town, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) from here, the reports said. Unofficial sources said seven others were also injured in the shooting but were too scared of being arrested to go to hospital. The blockade was called by 17 peasant organisations as part of a new agitation campaign launched by Bangladesh's major opposition parties against the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

In southeastern Chittagong, peasant barricades disrupted road and railway traffic for three hours Wednesday, sources said Thursday. Police guarded tracks in Dhaka and other major towns, but trains were brought to a halt in many other parts of the country, sources said.

Wednesday's blockade coincided with a dramatic "unity meeting" between Bangladesh's two top opposition leaders. The meeting was held between Sheikh Hasina Wajed, leader of the Awami League which heads an eight-party alliance, and Begum Khaleda Zia, of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which heads another seven-party group. It was the first formal meeting between the two leaders who called for unity in battling the Ershad government, a statement said. "Our objective is to re-establish the spirit of war of liberation by ensuring the democratic process in the country," it said. It also called for the stepping-up of anti-government agitation in the country's 64 district towns from November 1 to make the "Dhaka siege" a success.

A six-week-long anti-government campaign is to be capped with a "siege" of Dhaka on November 10 in which opposition supporters plan to block streets and government buildings.

Meanwhile, opposition sources said the authorities continued pre-emptive swoops on opposition activists throughout the country. They said up to 1,100 people had been taken into custody by Wednesday. Officials admitted arrests had been made but did not give a figure.

India

Prime Minister Interviewed on Punjab, Bofors

BK281659 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] The prime minister says a political solution to the Punjab problem is possible only if the center talks from a position of strength. In an interview to a Hindi weekly, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said there can be no other solution to the problem except political, but the solution will come only when we maintain our stance of talking from a position of strength. To bring the situation in the state under control, it is necessary to tackle the terrorists at the lower level, he said. Answering a question on the growing dissidence against leadership in some states, Mr Gandhi said some conflict is necessary so that there is a debate without harming the party.

Replying to another question, the prime minister said the information provided by the Swedish gun manufacturer, Bofors, clearly revealed that neither his family members, including relations in Italy, nor his friends, nor any member of his Cabinet, were involved in the deal.

Minister Leaves To Meet Sri Lankan President

BK281601 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, left New Delhi this afternoon for Colombo as a special emissary of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi that Mr Natwar Singh will have discussions with President Jayewardene and others within the framework of consultations about the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. He will also have preliminary discussions on matters relating to the forthcoming SAARC summit.

Defense Minister on Modernization of Forces

BK290355 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has said the Armed Forces would be equipped with the most modern and sophisticated weapon system in view of the induction of latest arms in India's neighborhood. Speaking to troops at a forward base in the central sector, Mr Pant said our efforts toward modernization and self-reliance will continue within the constraints of resources. He said only a strong and united India could ward off aggression and guarantee peace and prosperity. Mr Pant said India's real strength would always be measured in terms of its economic prosperity and unity among its ranks. He praised the Armed Forces for setting an example of unity and national integration.

Nine Injured in Tripura; Curfew Continues

BK281701 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] In Tripura, normal life was affected today in Belonia subdivision as a result of a 12-hour bundh [strike] called by the CPI-M. The bundh was in protest against the death of a party worker in loan mela [gathering for granting loans to peasants] clashes last Sunday [25 October]. The police said that at least nine persons were injured in fresh clashes in the town today. The curfew imposed last Sunday continued in view of the prevailing tension.

Newspaper Employees Stage 'Token Strike'

BK290406 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Newspaper employees in the capital went on a day's token strike yesterday in protest against the police lathi [baton] charge on striking employees of *The Indian Express*. The trouble started when the non-striking workers of the paper tried to enter the office premises, but were prevented by those on strike. The non-striking employees were led by the editor of the paper, Mr Arun Shourie, and were accompanied by BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] workers. The employees have been on strike from the 16th of this month demanding higher bonus and other facilities.

Indo-U.S. Vaccine Action Program Questioned

BK281514 Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Oct 87 p 4

[Editorial: "US Aid for Vaccines"]

[Text] Many Indian scientists working in the field of immunology and related areas have anxious queries about the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme. The agreement covers a sensitive area of research and they wonder why the government did not insist on adequate safeguards for this joint programme. Some scientists question the need to go to any foreign country for help when the problem is specific to India and other tropical countries. This point is answered by others. Although India has a reasonable number of high quality scientists working in microbiology and we also have some good institutions, they say, the country has failed in managing its R&D.

Actually, the technology mission on immunization, of which the Indo-US project would be a part, should have been a test of our capability to manage biological R&D programmes involving a lot of field testing. The fears of the lay public about the leakage of undesirable genetically engineered organism are genuine. This point cannot be answered by saying that a number of laboratories in the developed countries have been engaged in this research for almost a decade and the laboratory protocols which they have evolved have withstood the test of time (notwithstanding the AIDS virus controversy).

In India, negligence and carelessness are built into work practices. The rules and protocol for operating a biotechnology laboratory in India would have to be different and more strict than those in the developed countries. Furthermore, the scientists still remember that the WHO-funded Malaria Research Centre near Delhi was closed in the early '70s after the allegation that some foreigners were doing work related to germ warfare in the centre. The vaccines which are tested in India should be cleared by the drug controller of the government of India and the vaccines which are developed in the USA should additionally be cleared by the Food and Drug Administration of that country.

The fear of Indians being used as "guinea pigs" should not be brushed aside by scientific bureaucrats. The apprehensions about the patents for biochemicals and for genetically engineered organisms are foremost in the minds of all scientists. This is so because of the recent changes in the patent laws of the USA. Dr Ananda Chakravarty, a US national of Indian origin, won a case

in the US Supreme Court around 1980 to uphold the stand that a genetically engineered bacteria or a virus is a product which can be patented.

Some more changes in the patent laws of the USA are on the cards in the context of the recently discovered super-conductors. Indian scientists have withstood two earlier onslaughts in the last 15 years to dilute their patent protection. They do not want that in the garb of a vaccine programme, an American patent should be automatically binding on India. These objections must be stated regardless of the stand taken by some scientists in India who think that the Indo-US vaccine programme would drastically cut short the time required for developing vaccines which are badly needed, for example, to combat rabies, hepatitis, children's diarrhoea, etc.

India's anti-tuberculosis and anti-leprosy programmes, which have been marking time for a few years, they think, would get a fillip. These hopes are based on the expected facility of very rapid biochemical analyses and testing of samples prepared in the Indian laboratories and in the expectation of needed sophisticated equipment whose import is endlessly delayed by red tape and non-availability of funds.

Iran

Withdrawal From Hague Court Considered

LD290812 Tehran IRNA in English 0803 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran will consider pulling out of The Hague due to U.S. violations of the Algiers Accord, it was announced by the Public Relations Office of the Prime Ministry, here Thursday.

The Political Council of the government held a session Thursday to review the U.S. violations of the accord.

In the light of the recent actions and statement by the U.S. Administration and the U.S. violation of the Article One of the accord, withdrawal of Iran from The Hague will be studied, it was announced.

The council also agreed that continuation of the oil trade on the basis of the U.S. dollar will mean to spread the U.S. economic crisis to other countries and, therefore, it proposed, SDR [IMF special drawing rights] should be seriously considered as a replacement.

New Soviet Envoy Says Vorontsov To Visit

LD281710 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Mr Vladimir Kudov, the new USSR ambassador in Tehran, presented a copy of his credentials at a meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati this afternoon. During this meeting, Mr Kudov declared his country's preparedness to expand and to extend the comprehensive relations between the two countries. He said: Mr. Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister, will soon visit Iran, and a joint commission between the two countries will be formed in the future. Mr. Kudov then presented a detailed report on U.S. Secretary of State Shultz's recent visit to the USSR.

During the meeting, the foreign minister wished the new Soviet ambassador success in his appointment, expressed his gladness at the recent progress made in Soviet-Iranian relations, and declared that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to expand and develop bilateral relations.

Commentary Views Silkworm, Stinger Missiles

LD281733 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0739 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Unattributed commentary from the "Guards Corps" program]

[Excerpt] As you have heard, the repeated military and political defeats suffered by the Great Satan in its opposition to and hostility against the glorious Islamic Revolution have shattered the pseudo-powerful image of the criminal United States. The world's oppressed and deprived now know that with struggle and resistance they can break the superpowers' hold on world hegemony and forever end their oppression and crimes.

The U.S. forces' vulnerability in the Persian Gulf in the face of the firm actions and resolve of the forces of Islam is undoubtedly one of the most important victories and achievements of the God-seeking Iranian nation in 7 years of defensive fighting. This in itself is a great victory, which is [words indistinct] in the history of the imposed war.

The readiness of the Hezbollahi ummah, their relentless onslaught on the battlefronts against the aggressor, and the heroic struggles of the epic-making fighters against the Great Satan and its puppet Saddam, the Zionist, prove that despite possessing so-called ultramodern weapons, the United States is vulnerable in the face of the sharp weapon of the faith of the pagan fighters and justice seekers of Islam, and is only a hollow drum [words indistinct].

Iran's possession of advanced weapons, such as the Stinger and Silkworm missiles, has caused fear in the White House, the Kremlin, and among military leaders in the Pentagon and [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Asks Nation To 'Thwart All Plots'
LD290634 Tehran IRNA in English 0629 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Wednesday that the world oppressors more than ever before have launched their all-out attacks on the Islamic revolution of Iran.

Speaking to a group of Gendarmerie staff the president who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council said the Iranian nation must be prepared to defend Islam.

President Khamene'i added the animosity of the arrogant powers against the Islamic revolution of Iran is due to their hostility towards Islam. One clear example of such hostility, he added, is imposition of the war on Iran.

The president called on the nation to maintain their vigilance and thwart all plots against the Islamic revolution of Iran.

West Europeans in 'Perilous Situation' in Gulf
LD281549 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1120 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Excerpts] The foreign and defense ministers of the seven members of the WEU at their session, which ended yesterday, jointly agreed to expand the level of their military cooperation and coordination in the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted]

After the U.S. forces came to the Persian Gulf, and following an open declaration by Britain and France that they would be prepared to cooperate militarily with U.S. forces, those two countries jointly embarked on fresh efforts to apply pressure on other European and non-European countries to drag them into the Persian Gulf. Much of these efforts were, of course, initially directed at WEU members, and those continued efforts in a short time led major members of the union to undertake specific tasks in cooperating with and assisting U.S. forces.

So far the primary efforts of these governments have been devoted to portraying their military presence in the Persian Gulf as nonbelligerent and outside the framework of support for Kuwaiti ships, so much so that in his meeting with the Majlis speaker in Tehran some time ago, the Belgian ambassador described the reason for sending that country's forces [as heard] to the Persian Gulf in the following terms: We regret the situation that has developed in the Persian Gulf. We were the last European country to send minesweepers to the Persian Gulf. This is a small action that should not be regarded as a belligerent move.

Of course, these remarks and those of other European officials, excluding Britain and France, clearly mean that on the one hand, those countries are subjected to increasing pressure from Britain and France, and on the other hand, they are intensely concerned with the fact that, should a widespread military conflict erupt in the Persian Gulf, they would not be immune to the consequences. Therefore, they are trying to portray their military presence in the region as being outside joint and coordinated action with Washington and as merely a measure taken for their individual interests. In addition, along with a range of military cooperation and coordination, they intend to minimize their vulnerability. However, with the exacerbation of tension in the Persian Gulf caused by the Reagan administration, the level of those countries' assistance to and cooperation with the U.S. forces will inevitably assume more open and extensive aspects.

Moreover, those countries should bear in mind that surrendering to British and U.S. pressures in the Persian Gulf is in effect tantamount to entering a perilous situation whose consequences will probably involve many dangers. Obviously, this truth has also led the Reagan administration—right from the start of the question of escorting Kuwaiti ships—to devote its main efforts to dragging as many European countries as possible into the Persian Gulf. From the standpoint of Washington's ringleaders, the expansion of Western forces in the Persian Gulf will automatically deflect part of the danger toward those forces and thus minimize, as it were, the probable blows and damage suffered proportionate to the expansion of those forces.

Japanese Oil Firms Urge Caution Over Embargo
LD291009 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29, IRNA—Japanese oil companies have asked their government to decide cautiously if officially asked by the U.S. to ban oil imports from Iran.

The request came following Monday's decision by President Reagan made to ban oil imports from Iran, the Tokyo-based English daily '*Japan Times*' reported Thursday.

The daily, quoting a source at a major Japanese oil company, wrote in case Japan joined the U.S. imposed embargo, it might provoke Iran to attack Japanese oil tankers in the Persian Gulf.

The source added that in September Japan purchased 230,000 barrels of crude daily, i.e., 7.4 percent of its total imports, from Iran.

Meanwhile, Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry has called on Japanese oil companies not to abuse U.S. oil sanctions against Iran.

The ministry has stressed that Japanese oil companies should neither increase their oil purchases from Iran nor ask for discounts in the oil price since both cases would affect world market.

Musavi Comments on U.S. Trade Restrictions

NC281201 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi in Tehran by station announcer Afshar—live]

[Text] [Afshar] Greetings, Mr Musavi.

[Musavi] Greetings.

[Afshar] As you heard on the news, Reagan has taken a stand calling for heavy restrictions on Iran. We would like your views on this.

[Musavi] In the name of God, the almighty and merciful. Of course, Reagan's stand is a passive one intended solely for domestic consumption in the United States. Following the defeats suffered by Reagan's policies in the Persian Gulf, as well as his defeats in Congress and those pertaining to the economic situation, he is seeking a way to gain respect for himself. Thus, he has raised this issue as a victorious gesture in at least one case, neglecting the fact that realities will finally emerge and that U.S. public opinion will be told about this later.

What Reagan has alleged actually does not exist. In a circular Iran issued a few years ago, the Government of the Islamic Republic itself decided to ban purchases of commercial and military items from the United States. I, myself, signed this circular in 1362 [year beginning 20 March 1983]. One of the circular's paragraphs states what I said above; namely, that all commercial and military purchases from the United States are banned. The decision was made because we always took into account the possibility that they would use their commercial relations as a weapon against us.

Apart from this, we had the imam's advice, which appears at the beginning of this circular, and which states that we do not need relations with the United States. Thus, generally speaking, we had no commercial relations and imports, except for very small quantities of imports on the basis of a nota bene in the circular. Actually, as far as our foreign trade relations are concerned, the United States was erased from the list of the countries from which we receive imports. Therefore, Reagan's allegation is empty and aimed at gaining prestige, without being able to affect us in the least.

As for oil, and their statement that they will not buy oil, we did not sell oil directly to the United States. We sold to world markets and part of that may have reached the United States. Oil is like gold. Everyone knows, and it has been repeatedly said, that there are various [word indistinct] on the world level. Therefore, this gesture by Reagan will only harm the Americans themselves and ridicule Reagan more on the world level. We have never faced difficulties with regard to oil.

Our approach to world markets is strong. Of course, if a country or countries—apart from the United States with which we have no relations—reduced their purchases, we, in turn, immediately imposed restrictions on imports from that country, thanks to our domination over our economy and industries. I wish to announce here that this stand is the government's official stand. We do not believe that Reagan's insanities will be heeded nor that they will have any impact on the world level.

[Afshar] In your opinion, can Reagan's stand be linked to the economic crisis that the United States has been facing the last few days?

[Musavi] One hundred percent. The analyses that I have in front of me on the crash of share prices in the United States show that this is one of the biggest crises that the United States has faced as a result of Reagan's inflationary policies. It speaks of losses of tens of billions [of dollars] suffered by shareholders and the fact that the American people will have to bear the consequences of this, of discussions on new taxes, and of congressional debates on reducing the budget deficit, which has always been astronomic because of the U.S. Administration's world-devouring and aggressive nature. This will naturally limit the United States to a great extent as far as the imposition of its policies in the world are concerned. No one knows what the future of this will be.

I saw an article in a famous U.S. newspaper today which questions Reagan on both his economic policy and his policies in the Persian Gulf. It writes that one of the elements leading to the drop in share prices and to the vast defeat suffered by the United States domestically is the U.S. activity in the Persian Gulf. This is something everybody knows. Thus, Reagan's gesture amidst all these crises is actually his attempt to show that he has been victorious in at least one thing. However, he will be defeated in this effort as well. I wish to draw the viewers' attention to the fact that there are some things which may not be very sensitive news-wise to us.

For example, the United States suffered a defeat recently which has been said to be one of Reagan's biggest in the past year; namely, that Reagan's nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court was rejected. When we put all these defeats together we will see that Reagan is seeking something to prove that he is doing something.

[Afshar] Mr Prime Minister, we thank you for attending this interview. Goodbye.

[Musavi] Thank you and goodbye.

Tehran on Ineffective U.S. Embargo Attempts
LD281545 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1113 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Unattributed political commentary: "The U.S. Propaganda Move To Impose Sanctions on Iran"]

[Text] Following the Reagan administration's call for an economic embargo on Iran, domestic and foreign reaction has pointed up the failure of this new plot. Yesterday, while calling the recent U.S. action a passive stand, Prime Minister Musavi stressed the following:

For the past 5 to 6 years, the Islamic Republic Government has banned the purchase of any type of goods, commercial or military, from the United States. The United States has been struck from the list of countries from which Iran imports goods. Our country's prime minister also foretold that Reagan's new move would have no worldwide effect.

It should be pointed out that 2 days ago, Reagan banned all exports to and imports from Iran. At the same time, he said that the United States has accepted Iran's revolution and respects the people's right to choose any government they want.

Meanwhile, political analysts say that considering the fact that the United States currently buys 3-5 percent of Iran's oil on the open market, this action cannot have any effect on Iran's economic situation—unless the United States is able to gain the cooperation of its industrialized allies to impose an economic embargo on Iran. In this respect, it has been reported that the Reagan administration has asked the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the OECD, and 24 industrialized countries, including Japan, for help.

Nevertheless, the reaction of most of these governments so far has brought nothing but disappointment for the Reagan administration. The only Western country that has supported the U.S. propaganda move is the French Government, whose Foreign Ministry spokesman said: We declare our total sympathy with the United States and call for the withdrawal of assistance from Iran. However, other industrialized governments, such as the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Great Britain, Spain, and Italy, either have openly refused the U.S. request, or at least hesitated and deferred it to an all-round action via the Security Council.

A West German official stated: Imposing sanctions on Tehran would be useless. The West German foreign minister said: This is not the time to impose a worldwide arms embargo on Iran. The British Foreign Office added: This country is opposed to economic sanctions and considers them fruitless. The British Foreign Office spokesman said that his country is in favor of a cease-fire by way of the United Naions and that any decision imposing sanctions on Iran would be taken through the United Nations.

Similar comments have been made by the Japanese authorities. The foreign minister said: Japan believes that a solution to the war must be found by way of talks. Meanwhile, a high-ranking Japanese official who has played an important role in that country's foreign policy-making during the past few years, said: Action by one government, that is the United States, cannot be effective; there should be a new attempt regarding Iran within the framework of the Security Council and on the basis of a unanimous vote by all its permanent and temporary members.

Informed political sources say that considering the deep differences of opinion among Security Council members about approving economic and arms sanctions against Iran, the request by Britain and Japan that the economic embargo proposed by Reagan should be discussed within the framework of the Security Council is, in fact, a polite refusal of Washington's request.

This is while domestic sources believe that Iran has no extensive economic connections with the United States, and that, together with its allies in Europe and Asia, the United States resorted to such an embargo in 1979. At that time, Iran's economic ties with the United States had not been weakened yet. Nevertheless, the first round of sanctions could not affect Iran's economy or its domestic and foreign policies. After a while, Japan and the Western governments gradually regretted the imposition of sanctions on Iran; even U.S. companies preferred to buy Iranian oil on the open market.

These informed sources believe that considering the present crisis and ailing economy in the capitalist world—a sign of the fever of which is the falling share prices—and considering the fact there are no economic ties between Iran and the United States, this action of the Reagan administration is one of show, aimed at making up for the disgrace of its foreign policy in the McFarlane incident. As our country's prime minister has said: This action of Reagan is for domestic consumption only.

Now there is a belief that to support the Iraqi regime in the imposed war, the United States is crazily attempting to put pressure on Iran or the Ershad oil terminal through economic means and that it soon will learn that none of these actions have the slightest effect on Iran's future policies and, more than ever, will encourage Iran to become independent and to free itself of the hegemonistic influence of the Western world.

Velayati Departs for Harare for Talks
NC290651 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister, departed from Tehran this morning en route to Harare for talks with Zimbabwean authorities. Prior to his departure, he spoke to IRNA about the topics that will be discussed during the visit, particularly the Persian

Gulf situation. He said: In view of the fact that the Persian Gulf lies within the nonaligned countries' boundaries and that all of the regional countries are members of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM], it is imperative that the president of the organization, the Zimbabwean president, should be kept informed about the latest developments. This is required so that any necessary steps can be carried out within the framework of NAM's difficult obligations.

In response to a question on the UN secretary general's measures on the issue of the war, Mr Velayati said: The UN secretary general's letter has arrived at our Foreign Ministry. We will declare our principled viewpoint, within the framework of our clear and pre-announced position, to the United Nations.

Turkish State Minister Oksay Continues Visit

Confers With Musavi on Oil

LD282210 Tehran IRNA in English 1813 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 28, IRNA—Visiting Turkish Minister of State for Oil Affairs Kazim Oksay conferred with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Wednesday.

At the meeting, the premier expressed satisfaction with the results of Tehran-Ankara economic talks concerning establishment of oil and gas pipelines as well as purchase of Iranian oil and its by-products by Turkey.

Musavi termed betterment of economic relations between the two countries as essential for the growth of the regional Muslim countries' economies.

On regional security, the prime minister said the very first step to bring security back is to force the U.S. out of the region. Iran believes that as tension has continued to mount in the region with the arrival of U.S. fleets, roots of uneasiness will gradually dry up by the U.S. withdrawal, he stressed.

The Turkish minister expressed regret over escalation of tension in the Persian Gulf.

Oksay termed his talks with Iranian officials in Tehran to the benefit of the two countries.

Kazim Oksay heading a delegation arrived here Monday.

Discusses Exchanges With Khatami

LD290644 Tehran IRNA in English 0634 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA—The visiting Turkish Minister of State for Oil Affairs Kazim Oksay said here Wednesday that his country attached great importance to bilateral relations with Iran and called for expansion of the ties especially in cultural fields.

In a meeting with Minister of Culture and Ershad-e Eslami (Islamic Guidance) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami, the Turkish minister who is also in charge of religious affairs, deplored this year's incident in Mecca in which a large number of hajj pilgrims were martyred.

In reply Khatami said what the Saudis did in Mecca is one of the greatest crimes in man's history for which they should be responsive before the Islamic world.

Referring to religious and cultural ties between the peoples of the two countries, Khatami stressed the necessity for further cooperation of coreligionist nations, in cultural and economic fields.

On the Iraqi-imposed war, Khatami said it was rather a cultural war aimed at destroying the Islamic revolution. But, he stressed, despite efforts of the enemies of the revolution, the war created further enthusiasm for preserving Iran's independence and defending its territorial integrity.

"If the aggressor is not condemned, the region will not experience peace and tranquility in future," the Ershad-e Eslami minister said.

He expressed hope that an Iranian film festival will soon be held in Turkey and that an office of the Turkish news agency will be opened in Iran in a near future.

Participation in Anti-U.S. Marches Urged

LD281456 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] The invitation by the War Information Headquarters to the various strata of the nation to participate in a massive march for Yam-al 'Allah [the day of God] on 4 November, comprises the next news report of this hour, which we will hear together.

The War Information Headquarters has invited the people throughout the country to show their resolve and will to confront the invasion by foreigners through their massive presence in the 4 November marches.

The War Information Headquarters statement said that 8 years ago, when the U.S. nest of spies in Tehran was captured, the genesis of a military confrontation and a full-fledged war between Iran and the United States was formed. Since then, the United States has resolved to destroy Iran's Islamic Revolution. Today, the United States has sent its militarists to the Persian Gulf in order to realize its wicked objective.

Having received the most telling blows during the past few years from Islamic movements throughout the world, the United States today has launched a military confrontation against the Muslim nation of Iran, with

the objective of eradicating revolution and movements against injustice and domination from the minds of the nations. It hopes to achieve this objective by fighting against our resisting nation.

In its attack on Tabas [referring to attempted rescue mission in 1980], in the Nozeh coup attempt [reference to an air base near Hamadan where there was an alleged coup attempt in 1980], in counterrevolutionary conspiracies to wage an armed civil war, and finally, in enticing the Iraqi regime to attack Iran, the United States has been severely defeated and disgraced. This disgraceful, wretched mark has been imprinted on the record of the United States' ruling junta. Now the United States has come to the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf in an attempt to uproot the Iranian nation, or so it believes.

The U.S. aim is to prevent the justice-seeking nations' cry for justice in the world. However, the question is this: Will Islamic motivation and the honor of the Iranian nation allow the criminal United States, with its ill-conceived ideas, to attain its unmanly and lowly aspirations? Will the Muslim nation of Iran allow the United States to hatch plots?

In this statement, it has been stressed that the resisting nation of Iran has proved that when the foreign enemy sets foot on the warpath, intent on destroying Iran's religion, homeland, and existence, Iran will not tire until it cuts off the roots of the aggressor. Now that we are on the threshold of 4 November—the anniversary of the capture of the United States' nest of spies— we invite our ever-present people to participate massively and solidly in the glorious anti-U.S. marches throughout the country. We invite the people to show the depth of their revolutionary reistance and steadfastness in the face of attacks by foreigners. We invite our people to show the world once again that they are still on the scene in defense of their aspirations, Islamic values, and the existence of their country, and that they will not let any foreigners dry up the roots of the Iranian nation's existence.

The presence in this grand march of every individual member of the heroic people of Iran—whether the Kurd, Turk, Lor, or Baluch tribes; religious minorities; Shi'ite or Sunni—will prove the undeniable fact that the people of Iran will never surrender to the aggressor foreigner. Moreover, they will bravely welcome the fight against the foreign aggressors.

The War Information Headquarters invites the brave people of Iran, who are the enemies of infidelity, to shout "Death to the United States" on Wednesday, 4 November, and thus inform the world once again of their decisive and lasting support for the fighters of Islam on the battlefields with the Ba'thist enemy and for the defenders of Islam in the Persian Gulf.

Further Details on Marches

LD291134 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that following its statement on the ceremonies and nationwide marches for the Day of God on 4 November, Death to America Day, the Islamic Propaganda Coordination Council would like to inform the hezbollah ummah that these ceremonies will be staged throughout the country on the morning of 4 November, and that the million-strong march by Tehran inhabitants will be staged on routes to the Majlis to be announced later.

The statement also asks all strata of the population, if they have any proposals or questions concerning the marches, to contact the Islamic Propaganda Coordination Council's unit responsible for the ceremonies by dialing the following numbers: 82-3037 and 3038.

Cabinet Discusses Price Measures, U.S. Crash

LD281454 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] In today's Cabinet session a report by the members of the committee on price supervision and inflation control was submitted to the members of the Cabinet. This report explained the main tasks accomplished since the beginning of the project. These include the coordination of establishments, the preparation of a project on personnel training, and the issuance of directives and rules and regulations on state authority to implement punishment [ta'zirat hukumati], as well as measures to procure and distribute 20 items of essential goods under the project.

According to assessments of the Central Bank incorporated in the report, there has been as much as a 90-percent decline in the prices of goods covered by the project. Except for a limited number of items for which more time is needed to boost supplies, it was noted that the rapid upward trend in prices of other goods—seen before the implementation of the project on inflation control—has been either slowed down or fully arrested.

The Cabinet confirmed the need to continue the project and to remove difficulties in its implementation. The Cabinet also confirmed the need to implement continuous supervision of prices. These measures are necessary to make the distribution system as healthy as possible and to attract the cooperation of the public. The Cabinet expressed appreciation for the efforts of all those who are involved in the implementation of the project, whether governors general, governors, district officers, and personnel of the economic mobilization nucleus or supervisors—supervisors who are responsible for the direct implementation of the project, having organized themselves in more than 590 townships and through 200

supervisory committees. The Cabinet decided that the achievements in the implementation of the project on supervision of prices should be communicated to the people through the media.

According to the same report, the Cabinet later heard a report on the latest developments concerning the collapse of share prices in the exchanges of the United States and industrialized countries. It also heard analysis and forecasts by economic experts on the expanding nature of the crisis in the U.S. economy and the downfall of the dollar empire. Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, explained the points of view of the government on these issues. Referring to the $1.3 trillion budget deficit of the United States and an inflation rate of 4.3 percent, the prime minister said:

This major crisis proved that a resort to militaristic policies and exploitation of power, which are at the top of the program of the Reagan administration, has not been able to save the ailing consumerist economy of that country. He added: A look at the indices about the real value of the dollar and the rapid fall in its rate exchange exposes more than ever before the need for decreasing ties between the international economy and the dollar. Utilization of the Special Drawing Rights system in trading exchanges—as the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed to the recent meeting of OPEC—now must be seriously pursued.

At the meeting of the Cabinet today, Mr Besharati, the supervisor of the headquarters for relief operations for the victims of recent floods in the provinces of Hamadan, Bakhtaranm, Ilam, and other provinces, submitted a report on the size of the damages, relief work already performed, and the urgent needs of the victims. The necessary measures were adopted.

At the Cabinet meeting today, the Council of Ministers approved the appointment of Mr Mohsen Mirdamadi to the position of governor general of Khuzestan Province. The Cabinet also expressed appreciation for the services of Mr 'Ali Jannati, outgoing governor general of the province.

Verdict Reached Against Subversive Groups

NC291107 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] According to our correspondent, today's session of the Supreme Judicial Council [SJC] reviewed seven dossiers of individuals belonging to atheistic and hypocrite minigroups and of some arsonists who had completed a military training course in Iraq and entered the country as mercenaries of the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime. These mercenaries had intended to assassinate people of our Hezbollahi nation and destroy some public places. Some of them had been responsible for martyring Guards during clashes with military and law enforcement forces. The verdict was pronounced by the Islamic revolutionary courts in Azarbayjan Bakhtari, (?Esfahan and Ilam) and instructions were issued for its implementation.

Official Discusses New Role of Gendarmerie

PM271651 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 87 p 18

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Ashtiyani, Ayatollah Khomeyni's representative in the Gendarmerie and head of the Gendarmerie political-ideological office; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Ashtiyani] The changes made in the Gendarmerie makeup are what matter. During the days of Taqut, the goals of the Gendarmerie were to maintain this former regime's policies. But, with the success of the revolution, this path and the general makeup of the force changed. In the past, the entire organization was geared toward oppressing the people and supporting the Taqut.

A group of advisers in charge of the force did not entirely trust the Iranian personnel and the dedicated religious men received little room to maneuver. Not only that, they were put under pressure. Personnel were kept weak; they were corrupted. The men were not allowed to know too much about what was going on. The organization was isolated from the people; it had nothing to do with the general public. Islamic values were belittled and human qualities were always put down.

The Gendarmerie bases, instead of being supportive of the poor and oppressed people, were in the hands of the feudal landowners and the rich. All power and equipment were in the capital; the posts were without the most basic necessities. [passage omitted]

The revolution brought a different ideology into the organization. It brought a general movement to coordinate with the people. This was the turning point for the force. After that, the Gendarmerie had to adopt goals suitable with those of the Islamic Republic.

The group of advisers, which before the revolution was made of Americans, all fled after the success of the Islamic revolution. This office later was totally dissolved from the force. Political-ideological centers were set up. The Hezbollah came to power. Ceremonial and useless ranks were abolished and literacy classes were set up. There was a huge effort by the political-ideological office to educate the men and raise their level of culture.

Small posts and lower ranks were given more attention than they perhaps deserved and there was an effort to establish spiritual relations with the people. There was also cooperation with Islamic associations in villages. The groundwork was prepared to give more room to the

poorer men in the force. Battle-worthy border and coast guard battalions were formed and the Gendarmerie was armed, suitable to its needs. [passage omitted]

The conspiracy of the counterrevolutionaries in the western part of the country, the peddlers of death [drug smugglers], smugglers on the eastern frontiers, plots by landowners, the creation of local clashes, unsafe roads and insecurity in areas outside of towns and in the villages, and, most important of all, the imposed war have been examples where the Gendarmerie did not hesitate to get into the action. By relying on God, this force was successful in all these areas. [passage omitted]

The Gendarmerie contols more than 60 percent of the country in terms of security. It looks into complaints, it prepares files and criminal records, it pursues criminals, and prevents crimes. Last year alone, it looked into 376,358 cases which were handed over to the judicial authorities. In another of the Gendarmerie's duties, the highway patrol units maintain security on roads between towns.

Last year, this force recovered 15.5 tons of narcotics and in this connection arrested 5,670 people. In terms of the smuggling of other goods, dozens of items worth millions of rials have been recovered. Because of the high figures involved, details of these recoveries will be given later. Another Gendarmerie duty is recruitment of eligible men for the Armed Forces. It is responsible for recruiting those who are eligible and for providing the necessary exemption papers for medical cases. [passage omitted]

The Gendarmerie has established many posts and has organized various patrols to provide security for about 80 percent of the country's western regions which include the Kordestan and Western Azarbayejan Provinces. Several hundred kilometers of the border regions in this area are defended by the Gendarmerie and, in the south, half of the entire force, along with its facilities, defend the southern borders in the first lines of defense.

[*Keyhan*] What role has the political-ideological office played in this change?

[Ashtiyani] This office has played a role in getting rid of the effects of the past regime, organizing laws in accordance with religious principles, and cleansing the spiritual aspects of the personnel. It is making an effort to create an atmosphere of high spiritual quality. One can see the effects of these changes in the sacrifices of the Gendarmerie personnel. [passages omitted] [*Keyhan*] We have behind us 7 years of battle. Now in our 8th year we are faced with the U.S. fleets in the Persian Gulf. What was the role of the Gendarmerie during these 7 years and what are its powers in the Persian Gulf and in the Sea of Oman?

[Ashtiyani] The Gendarmerie was the first to face the Ba'thist enemy. Gendarmerie posts along the border regions were the first to face the invasion. Those men took the first steps of resistance when they stood in the way of the enemy's advance. This was done by the dedicated men of the Gendarmerie and the local people. The first martyr of the imposed war was from the Gendarmerie.

This force organized military and battle-worthy units and sent them along to the battlefields. They participated in the fighting under the command of the Army and these are some of the areas where this force has been active in the imposed war. After that, they were deployed along hundreds of kilometers of the frontier, which they are busy defending. [passage omitted]

With regard to the second part of your question, one must say there is more chance of hostilities in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman with the new tensions raised by Saddam and the Arab rulers and with the presence of U.S. warships and those of other European powers. There is a need to mobilize the military and popular forces to counter unpredictable events and this is more necessary than before.

The Gendarmerie knows the geography of the area and the southern coasts and is in direct touch with the people of this region. It can play an important role in training the natives of this region in military tactics. It can play an important role in teaching these people how to use weapons and other equipment. In this regard, the respected commanders should anticipate the necessary actions and should prepare for emergency actions. Coast guard personnel should remain alert.

[*Keyhan*] How do you evaluate the recent aggressions and movements of the Afghan regime's forces in the east of the country? What efforts have been made to control the movements of Afghan refugees?

[Ashtiyani] Important here is that the Islamic Republic has many problems, plus the heavy load of the war and the inevitable difficulties, such as the migration of war refugees from the towns on the frontiers, the bombing of civilian areas, refugees from Iraq, and various other things. Despite this, it is playing host to refugees and homeless people from Afghanistan, who number more than 2 million. Well, the presence of this number of people will without a doubt have some consequences. For example, they have to be provided with housing, food, and work. Then there is the issue of their coming and going in and out of their own country, their cooperation with the mujahidin.

The third concern is the crimes that some of these people commit. Narcotics smuggling is the most important of these crimes. Several steps have been taken by the Interior Ministry in this regard, such as issuing identification cards and creating refugee camps for the Afghans. This way they can have more facilities.

The Gendarmerie is concerned with controlling illegal movement and preventing the infiltration of spies and terrorists who have no other wish than to sully the image of the Afghan brothers. The Gendarmerie also has to fight smugglers. There are some actions on the eastern frontier shared by Iran and Afghanistan, prompted by the Afghan regime. These include the latest incidents which were, of course, simple and limited. They are steps taken by the Afghan regime to counter the mujahidin; they lack political or military importance. Of course, our forces are always ready to give a crushing answer to this kind of aggression.

Now the question of measures taken to counter smuggling: I am not exaggerating if I say that the past regime made no effort of any kind to control the borders. The efforts undertaken later to do this started literally from zero. We use the border patrols; we have built frontier roads, some 1,200 km of them in the past 2 years. In these past 2 years we built 33 bases, as well as watchtowers. We have started air surveillance along the borders and we have expanded the network of communications. These are some of the things that have been done and, with their expansion, our success rate will be even higher. So far, we have achieved brilliant results with this amount of work.

[*Keyhan*] With regard to narcotics smuggling, some parts of the frontiers recently have been handed over to the revolution committees. What is your view on this?

[Ashtiyani] Three years ago, the Majlis passed a law giving this responsibility to the revolution committees. This required a transition period. Recently, and upon recommendation of the country's Security Council, the committees were given the responsibility of preventing the inflow of narcotics over some 400 km of border.

The Gendarmerie, with 30 years' experience in this area and by giving precious martyrs, especially after the revolution, has shown that it is perfectly capable of handling narcotics cases. During the 8 years since the revolution, the Gendarmerie has recovered some 90,000 kg of narcotics and it has arrested 29,000 smugglers. Compared to the 8 years before the revolution, this shows a remarkable growth of more than 17 times. During this time 284 sacrificing personnel of this force have lost their lives to achieve the glorious rank of martyrdom.

Now that this task has been handed over to the committees, the Gendarmerie will be able to devote its time to other things. It will devote its strength and equipment to other areas.

[*Keyhan*] How do you view the situation of the counterrevolution in the western areas? How successful has the Gendarmerie been in countering these elements to bring order to the region?

[Ashtiyani] Following the success of the revolution, the western part of the country became the stomping ground for counterrevolutionary elements. This reached such an extent that they were even dreaming of independence. They abused the principles of the Islamic Republic and showed their evil nature. After that, by the orders of the imam and with the bravery of the Islamic warriors, they were dealt with severely.

First, the counterrevolutionaries were thrown out of the towns and then pressure was put on them in the mountains, forests, and isolated regions. Their present situation is that they do not enjoy stability in 1 foot of the area. They have received decisive blows, without managing to stage even one proper operation. This and other factors mean that the counterrevolutionaries are in a completely defensive position. The most important of these factors are:

1. Closure of the borders and the fact that these elements have no reliable communications link with the Ba'thist Iraqi enemy.

2. Cooperation of the Kurdish people and the combatant Iraqi Kurds and the effect this has had on the people of Kordestan.

3. Growing level of people's awareness in the area.

4. Bullying attitudes of the counterrevolution and the fact that they pressure the local population to provide their needs.

5. The Islamic Republic's kind behavior toward the people.

6. Large numbers of these elements approaching the Islamic Republic regime to receive safe conduct guarantees and to surrender to the Islamic forces.

In addition to these factors, the counterrevolutionaries have been disarmed of their hot anti-imperialist slogans. While Iran is in direct confrontation with the United States in the Persian Gulf, this weapon also has been taken away from them. All in all, it can be said that these groups have lost their political identity and their followers no longer have incentive to fight. At present, they have been turned into rebels and bribe-takers; their actions lack any political or military importance.

In this sense, the role of the Gendarmerie is praiseworthy. It controls several hundred kilometers of border in this area. It cuts off uncontrolled movement by air surveillance. It secures roads. It has created bases and posts throughout the country and in sensitive areas. It has formed emergency squads. And it has overwhelmed the counterrevolution, stopping all movement by these people. We are hoping that with the kindness of God the area will be rid of these plagues through the efforts of these warriors.

Kurdish Groups Pledge Support for Tehran

NC250718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the Kurdish Socialist Party have issued separate communiques condemning the recent U.S. attacks on Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf and have declared their categorical support for the Islamic Republic of Iran against the U.S. provocations. The PUK communique expressed its vehement indignation regarding the U.S. imperialist instigation against Iran and stressed the solidarity and cooperation, as well as the uncompromising resistance, of the Union's forces alongside the Islamic combatants.

The communique also stated that the PUK forces of Iraq will combat imperialist moves with all their strength and will not spare any efforts to support the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The report further noted the Kurdish Socialist Party of Iraq's communique, which claimed that the presence of U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf is to prevent the downfall of the Iraqi regime. It also emphasized that the United States and the reactionaries of the region should be aware of the fact that the combatant and revolutionary nation of Iran is not daunted by aggressors. The communique states: The United States suffered defeat in Vietnam, Cuba, and Iran and now the U.S. imperialists' position in the Persian Gulf will not fare any better.

In conclusion, the communique said that the Kurdish Socialist Party expressed its apprehension and anger with regard to the presence of warships of the United States and its allies in the Persian Gulf.

Afghans, Pakistanis Ready To Fight U.S.

NC280807 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Afghan refugees and Pakistanis residing in Zahedan have signed a petition in which they condemn U.S. intervention in the Persian Gulf and announce their readiness to directly confront the United States. We invite you to listen to our correspondent's report on this issue:

[Begin recording] A group of Afghan refugee brothers and Pakistani Muslims residing in Zahedan have issued a petition in which they express strong aversion with the United States' aggression against Islamic Iran and renew their allegiance to Imam Khomeyni to defend the Islamic revolution. In part of the petition, the Muslim Afghan and Pakistani brothers point out that the American attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran is an attack on all Islamic countries and that it is the duty of all the world's Muslims at this juncture to support the Islamic revolution.

The petition adds: At this moment, when Islam needs help, we are witnessing the policy of the treacherous heads of some Islamic countries to remain silent on the issue of the United States' aggression against Islamic Iran and to plot against the Islamic Revolution together with the Great Satan. We decisively state that this plot is not only against the Islamic Revolution in Iran but against all liberation movements throughout the world. This is the Central News Unit correspondent in Zahedan. [end recording]

10,000 Iraqi POW's Reportedly Request Asylum

NC290630 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] More than 10,000 Iraqi POW's stationed in camps in Iran have asked officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to grant them political asylum. According to IRNA, the secretary of the Supreme Defense Council, who is also the supervisor of the Commission for Iraqi POW Affairs, announced this yesterday. He added that the Islamic Republic of Iran's plans for contact with the (?relevant) agencies [words indistinct] and said: Iran's policy of unilaterally releasing (?disabled) Iraqi POW's and of treating POW's continues. Thus far 700 such prisoners have been released.

Regarding the [words indistinct] condition of the Iranian POW's in Iraq, he said: According to reports which we have received, our prisoners are being maltreated in Iraq.

The report states that in a march in Semnan yesterday, Iraqi POW's expressed their readiness to fight the United States in the Persian Gulf. At the conclusion of these ceremonies, the Semnan camp's POW's donated more than 200,000 rials for the fronts.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

IRGC Liberates Heights in Iraq

LD281709 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] According to the General Staff Headquarters of the three arms of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], the (Badre Hush) heights in the "Nasr-4" operational sector in Iraq were liberated in the course of a successful operation carried out this morning by the brave fighters of the IRGC Ground Forces.

In these operations, which were carried out near the liberated region of Mawat in Iraq's Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, the report says that the 1st and 3d Battalion of the 501st infantry Brigade of the defeated army of Iraq were completely destroyed, more than 500 enemy troops were killed or wounded, and tens of others were captured by the fighters of Islam. In these operations, which were

backed by the forces of the IRGC Ground Forces, 11 tanks and personnel-carrying vehicles, dozens of other vehicles, and engineering equipment of the enemy were set on fire and destroyed.

Communique No 3,003

LD281711 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 28, IRNA—Two Iraqi warplanes were shot down over the southern Iranian waters by Iranian anti-aircraft fire at 19:48 hours local time (16:18 GMT) Tuesday, said a military communique here Wednesday.

Communique Number 3003 released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and searched six cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Tuesday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain there was no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard them.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 10 enemy emplacements of light and heavy weapons were set ablaze in parts of the southern fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces yesterday.

Heavy Iranian artillery fire prevented Iraqi engineering units from setting up embankments or fortifying positions around Qasr-e Shirin, western sector, Tuesday.

An Iranian patrol convoy clashed with an Iraqi patrol unit in Panjwin, northwestern fronts, Tuesday, inflicting several casualties on enemy patrols and forcing them to flee.

In Eynkhosh, western sector, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded, parts of enemy positions set ablaze and 11 tanks sustained heavy losses due to the Iranian artillery fire Tuesday, concluded the communique.

18 Killed in Iraqi Air Raid

LD281712 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that 18 of our compatriots were martyred and 70 others were injured today when Iraqi aircraft bombed two civilian areas in Fars Province.

Air Strike Heavily Damages Iraq

LD290709 Tehran IRNA in English 0703 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA—Iran's Air Force fighter bombers hit enemy positions, concentration centers and military-economic installations in 'Tib' township, in southern Iraq, Thursday morning. Heavy damage was inflicted on the enemy and the fighters returned to bases safely.

Pakistan

Strong Protest Lodged Over Afghan Shelling

BK290249 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul administration's forces fired 10 mortar rounds and about 300 anti-aircraft machinegun rounds last Thursday [22 October] at the Arandu area of Chitral District, injuring one Pakistani citizen. A strong protest was lodged with the Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad.

Junejo To Attend SAARC Summit, Visit Malaysia

BK261239 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, is to attend the third SAARC summit being held in Kathmandu from the 2d of next month. The prime minister is expected to hold separate meetings with the leaders of other South Asian countries on this occasion and exchange views with them on bilateral relations and current international issues of common interest. The prime minister will also pay an official visit to Malaysia from the 5th to 7th of next month at the invitation of the prime minister, Mahathir bin Mohamed, of Malaysia. During the visit, the two leaders are expected to have friendly exchange of views on issues of common interest and discussions on development of bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, education and culture.

Further Reportage on Iranian Minister's Visit

Trade Memorandum Signed

BK281633 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] A memorandum of understanding has been signed in Islamabad under which Pakistan will supply nearly 100,000 tons of IRRI rice to Iran, and more if needed. Pakistan has agreed to purchase 20,000 barrels of crude oil from Iran. Pakistan has also agreed in principle to purchase 200 buses from Iran if the quality and price are appropriate. The two sides also agreed that they will send their merchandise through Karachi port. They also decided to take steps to promote bilateral trade in various fields and to maintain a suitable trade balance. They agreed on a bilateral trade turnover of $60 million on a deferred payment basis.

According to the memorandum, the two countries will supply $200 million worth of commodities yearly to each other. They also reached agreement on preferential trade treatment under the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization in order to facilitate bilateral and trilateral trade between Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey. Pakistan offered consultant and preinvestment services and training facilities to Iran. Iran and Pakistan also agreed to exchange teachers and television programs to promote the Urdu and Persian languages.

The memorandum of understanding was signed by federal Finance Minister Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo and Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Javad Iravani on behalf of their respective governments at the end of the third session of the Pakistan-Iran Joint Ministerial Commission.

Further on Memorandum

LD281920 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Islamabad, Oct. 28, IRNA—Iran and Pakistan signed a letter of understanding here Wednesday according to which the volume of bilateral trade for the next year will hit dlrs 400 million. The ceiling of banking credit for bilateral trade cooperation was also increased from dlrs 40 to dlrs 60 million. The letter of understanding was signed by economic and finance minister of Iran and his Pakistani counterpart on the fourth day of the meeting of Iran-Pakistan commission.

According to the new agreement, Pakistan will purchase Iranian non-oil products, including 200 buses, as well as 20,000 barrels of crude per day. Iran will also buy 80,000 to 100,000 tons of quality rice from Pakistan. The two sides also agreed on using Karachi and Qasim ports in Pakistan for the shipment of goods for Iran up to two million tons per year. Iran and Pakistan agreed on regular exchange of scholarships in various areas, recruitment of 75 Pakistan veterinarians by Iran, and purchase of Iran's some small industries from Pakistan. [sentence as received]

Iranian Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani has been here since January for the third Iran-Pakistan commission.

Iravani Notes 'Satisfaction'

LD281926 Tehran IRNA in English 1819 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Islamabad, Oct. 28, IRNA—Visiting Iranian economic and financial affairs minister Mohammad Javad Iravani expressed satisfaction today over his negotiations with Pakistani officials and said the two countries have reached new agreements in land and sea transportation. Speaking to reporters before departing here for Lahore Iravani said he had submitted President Khamene'i's message to his Pakistani counterpart Ziaul Haq and in return is carrying Ziaul Haq's message for Hoj. Khamene'i. "The two countries enjoy close relations and Iran has always stood by Pakistan", he stressed.

Referring to the U.S. propaganda of imposing an economic embargo on Iran, Iravani said it is not a new issue. Noting the Islamic Republic has never sold oil to the U.S. directly, but to private oil companies, he added, "therefore such ballyhoo is only a propaganda campaign against Iran." He also termed the U.S. and other foreign forces as the main cause of tension in the region. A letter of understanding was inked between Iran and Pakistan this morning at the end of Tehran-Islamabad joint economic commission meet.

Iravani during his five-day visit here also held talks with President Ziaul Haq, Premier Mohammad Khan Junejo and several other Pakistani officials. He left here for Lahore today and is scheduled to return home on Thursday.

Arms Purchase Agreement Signed With Turkey

BK280723 Karachi NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 18 Oct 87 p 1

[All figures as published]

[Text] Rawalpindi, 17 Oct [From *Nawa-e Waqt* correspondent]—Turkey will buy arms and ammunition worth $4.5 million from Pakistan. This was decided during President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's visit to Turkey. An agreement to this effect was signed by Pakistan ordnance factory chairman Major General Tariq Mas'ud, who accompanied the president during his visit. During talks between President Ziaul Haq and his Turkish counterpart, Kenan Evren, eight fields in which the two countries can further promote their cooperation, including trade, were also identified. The two countries have also decided to fully implement a $50-million project.

It has been learned that Pakistan's exports to Turkey, which were $7 billion a few years ago, have now increased to $9.5 billion. Of this, $7.5 billion comes from tourism and $2 billion from textile exports. Turkey also (?imports) engineering goods. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's recent visit will further contribute to the promotion of trade and economic relations between Turkey and Pakistan. Apart from this, prospects also exist for bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture.

Sri Lanka

Indian Forces Consolidate Position in Jaffna

Temple Surrounded

BK281429 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1412 GMT 28 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 28 (*Lanka Puwath*)—The IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] ringed the Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil [temple] today as more refugees in and around the temple were moving out, official sources told *Lanka Puwath*. Although the terrorists had entered the kovil and were intimidating the refugees, trying to prevent them from leaving, the IPKF has been able to induce the refugees to move out, as the situation is now

returning to normal. According to official sources, refugees left in the kovil number about 8,000. Meanwhile the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation in its news bulletin said that the IPKF was reported to be meeting with some resistance at Kokkuvil.

The IPKF was also making certain logistical readjustments. The refugees in all camps in Jaffna are now been induced to return to their homes. The IPKF captured the Chavakachcheri town in a swift action last night. Twelve LTTE men were killed in the operation. Two IPKF soldiers suffered injuries. Mopping up and flushing out operations are in progress in the area. In Batticaloa LTTE men set off several explosions in an effort to force the shops to close. Meanwhile, the IPKF continued its massive relief and rehabilitation work in the Jaffna town. Fifteen thousand kg of cereals and cooked food were distributed in the relief camps at Hindu College, the Roman Catholic church and Osmania College area in the town yesterday.

Four relief committees were formed by the Jaffna people and they collected rations provided by the IPKF for distribution mainly to the people in the Nallur Temple area. There are more than 50,000 refugees in this area. The third Indian Red Cross team has reached Jaffna with essential and life saving drugs which were airlifted. A team of doctors and specialists from the Army and the Indian Red Cross are performing life saving operations and providing specialist services to the affected people. The medical team is functioning under the direct supervision of the director of medical services, Southern Command, Major General Shahir.

Curfew Relaxed

BK281627 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] The peacekeeping force recovered the half-burned bodies of 13 of its personnel who had been held prisoner by the LTTE near Kokkuvil in Jaffna. Disclosing this, an official spokesman said this evening that these persons seemed to have been killed by the LTTE before they fled Jaffna, and the bodies set on fire. The spokesman said that this was a brutal act and it gives lie to the recent statement made by the LTTE deputy leader, Mr (Mahathia), in an interview that the personnel taken by them would be treated as prisoners of war.

Giving details of the operations during the last 24 hours, the spokesman said that intelligence sources indicated that LTTE leaders have fled Jaffna city leaving their cadres to fend for themselves. During the mopping-up operations, the peacekeeping force captured three ammunition and explosive dumps of the LTTE near Nallur Kandaswamy temple, the university, and the kutchery [court] residency. The peacekeeping force encountered sporadic sniping. In the Eastern Province, the LTTE has been trying to foment trouble. A peacekeeping force post in Batticaloa was fired upon. Reports indicate that the LTTE is trying to consolidate its position in Mannar, Vavuniya, and Batticaloa. The spokesman said 10 LTTE men were killed in the operations in the last 24 hours bringing the total number of LTTE cadres killed to 740.

Meanwhile, curfew in Jaffna will be relaxed for 4 hours daily from tomorrow morning. The relaxation period will be extended in a phased manner. Relief measures are continuing on a war footing. Over 140,000 people are being provided food and other relief materials at the 15 refugees camps by the peacekeeping force. Two more medical teams have been sent to Jaffna. In addition, another 24 medical teams are standing by in Madras to avoid any delay. Operations were performed on civilians in Jaffna hospitals—120 persons were provided medical aid at Veeranagar in Tricomalee District, where two medical aid posts have been set up. Ten tons of rations were distributed to the refugees. Two buses have been provided to the Red Cross for their operations.

Kodakamam 'Stronghold' Taken

BK290308 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0249 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Here is the latest from Jaffna. One more stronghold of the LTTE, Kodakamam, has fallen to the PKF [peacekeeping force]. Two columns of the PKF advanced via Chavakachcheri and linked up Navatkuli last night wresting the control of Kodakamam. The Kodakamam-Chavakachcheri-Jaffna road has been opened after clearing mines and booby traps.

LTTE Damage Assessed

BK290359 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force, in cooperation with the civil administration, is now engaged in assessing the damage caused by the LTTE to the communication network in Jaffna. Our correspondent in Jaffna says the PKF in continuation of a massive relief operation airlifted 1,000 kg of food grains and cooked food to various refugee camps in and around the city yesterday. A large quantity of life-saving drugs to different places have also been airlifted. Four administrative teams of the Indian Red Cross are helping in relief work.

The peacekeeping force captured two motorcycle-borne hard-core LTTE men in Achchuveli area between Jaffna and Velvettiturai yesterday. The two were the couriers between various LTTE hideouts. The force also caught two other LTTE men laying road mines in Jaffna and obstructing relief work.

LTTE Harasses Refugees

BK290322 Hong Kong AFP in English 0209 GMT 29 Oct 87

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Excerpts] Jaffna, Sri Lanka, Oct 29 (AFP)—Civilians in this former Tamil rebel stronghold are choosing to arm themselves and run the gauntlet of snipers in a daily quest for food rather than risk moving to Indian Army relief centres. Indian officials say the main rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), has intimidated townsfolk by threatening to carry out massacres at relief camps. This northern Sri Lankan city is under Indian Army control, but the rebels have pledged to continue their struggle. The Indian Peacekeeping Force has called on the town's 133,000 civilians to take shelter at 15 Army-controlled relief centres, but most people have chosen to stay in their own homes.

The rebels Sunday [24 October] cut power lines to three relief camps here and launched a sniper attack on the residents. On Monday they ambushed an Army relief lorry in the peninsula and killed an Indian officer. [passage omitted] New Delhi has twice sent relief supplies by ship and has airdropped more than 4,000 food packets at various centres, including the Nellur Kandaswamy temple where 20,000 civilians have taken shelter. But a senior army commander said: "Our efforts are just a drop in the ocean, as we cannot get food to every home." [passage omitted]

Some 10,000 out of the 20,000 strong Indian Peacekeeping Force launched the offensive codenamed "Operation Pawan" (air) on Jaffna under the July 29 Indo-Sri Lankan peace pact aimed at ending ethnic violence in the island. The offensive left more than 660 LTTE rebels and about 180 Indian Army soldiers dead in 18 days of fighting. Hundreds have been wounded on both sides. The LTTE claims there have been high civilian casualties, and Jaffna's Catholic clergy estimate at least 100 civilians have been killed in the offensive and the Indian High Commission (embassy) in Colombo said 60 civilians have died till last Sunday.

LTTE Members Now Active in Kilinochchi

BK291124 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] LTTE terrorists who fled from the Jaffna town after being defeated by the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] were reported to be active in the Kilinochchi area. Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that this terrain was well-known to the LTTE leader Prabhakaran and his men, as they had used certain lands ostensibly operating as farms from 1975 onward, but were in fact the battle training grounds for their cadres. This area is surrounded by forest cover, which included the Iranamadu, which is one of the thickest in the country. There were also reports that last evening the terrorists had fired at the IPKF from an area close to Elephant Pass.

JVP Gunman Suspected in Official's Death

BK281157 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1135 GMT 28 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 28 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Gamalatchige Ranaweera, chairman of a gramodaya mandalaya [village council] at Padukka was shot dead this morning by a suspected Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) gunman riding on a motor-cycle, police told *Lanka Puwath* today. They said Mr Ranaweera was on his way to work when he was killed about 7 o'clock in the morning.

JVP 'Subversive' Shot Dead by Police

BK281127 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1115 GMT 28 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 28 (*Lanka Puwath*)—A JVP subversive was shot dead in the early hours of this morning at Panadura, 16 miles south of Colombo, when a gang of JVPers were confronted by a squad of policemen. A senior police official told *Lanka Puwath* today that a gang of 15 members of the proscribed political party the Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) had called at the home of an ex-Army captain and demanded a gun and had forcibly taken his gun away. The former Army officer had later called at the Panadura police station and made a complaint. He was being accompanied to the scene of the crime by a squad of policemen when they were confronted by a gang of subversives. In the ensuing confrontation one JVPer was shot dead.

5 Indians Wounded by Batticaloa Land Mine

BK290549 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0540 GMT 29 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo Oct 29 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Five members of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) were wounded yesterday in a land mine explosion at Batticaloa. Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that the wounded soldiers who were rushed to the IPKF hospital in Batticaloa included an official, Col. Nanjappa. Yesterday's land mine explosion occurred between Akkaraipattu and Tirukovil.

Suspect Sought for Attack on Parliament

BK281119 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1105 GMT 28 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 28 (*Lanka Puwath*)—The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) investigations into the August 18, 1987 bomb explosion in the Sri Lanka Parliament which was an assassination attempt on President J R Jayewardene, Prime Minister R Premadasa,

ministers and other members of the government parliamentary group have been completed, but for the apprehension and interviewing of Ajith Kumar, a parliamentary employee who it has now been established was a senior member of the proscribed political party, Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), a senior police official told *Lanka Puwath* today.

He said that 11 other suspects in the alleged conspiracy were under detention. Investigations revealed a conspiracy by JVP subversives which resulted in the lobbing of two hand grenades into the committee room 'A' of the Sri Lanka Parliament at Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte. One grenade bounced off the table of President Jayewardene before exploding. Police told *Lanka Puwath* that the two hand grenades had been lobbed into the parliamentary group meeting from an adjacent room killing district minister for Matara, Keerthi Abeywickrame and a clerk attached to the chief government whip's office, Norbert Senadheera.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali was seriously wounded and, the prime minister and several other ministers, and members of parliament were also wounded by the explosion of the grenades. A reward of one million rupees has been offered for information leading to the arrest of Ajith Kumar who was a sweeper in parliament at the time of the explosion and who CID investigations later revealed was a senior instructor in anti-government subversion of the JVP, living in Ganemulla. The suspect, his wife and child are missing since the day of the bomb explosion.

Meanwhile police said that they had yesterday arrested a government employee who had allegedly come to deliver a letter to parliament but at the outer perimeter of the security checkpoint was found to have had a barber's razor strapped to one of his legs.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, economic, military, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available source; it should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated. Those from English-language sources are transcribed, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names which are rendered phonetically or transliterated by FBIS/JPRS are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in 8 volumes: China, East Europe, Soviet Union, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Africa (Sub-Sahara), Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically. Current JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcovers or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. DOD consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.) For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (703) 527-2368, or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.